

Hafa Adai!

Beaches and pathways, docks and ramps are re-opened. **PAGE 3**

Heavy equipment truck overturns on Isa Drive. **PAGE 5**

75¢

# Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

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## PUBLIC BEACHES RE-OPENED

People are able to fish again but with the requirement that they maintain a distance of 6 feet away from each other. Beaches and parks now open to the public, and so are boat ramps and docks, but with social distancing still in effect.

**Story on Page 3**

KRIZEL TUAZON

# 20-plus out of quarantine today

By **KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA**  
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REPORTER

The first batch of individuals who were quarantined at the Kanoa Resort Saipan two weeks ago and later transferred to the Pacific Island Club Saipan quarantine site will be released today, according to one of the affected individuals.

The individual, who was part of the first batch of arrivals from Guam back in March 23, said that about 20 or 25 of them who arrived on Saipan at the same time will be released

**See 20-PLUS on Page 4**

## AT A GLANCE

As of 5:45pm, April 5, 2020

GUAM	CNMI
Positive: <b>84*</b> (DPHSS), <b>9*</b> (NHRC)	Positive: <b>8</b> Pending: <b>10</b> Deaths: <b>1</b>
Recovered: <b>23</b>	
Deaths: <b>4</b>	
*Tested by Guam Department of Public Health and Social Services Public Health Lab	
**Tested by the Naval Health Research Center in California	
Source: Joint Information Center-Guam, Commonwealth Health Care Corp.	

## UNITED SUSPENDS SERVICE UNTIL APRIL 30

### 57 take last flight out of Saipan

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**  
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REPORTER

Saipan to Guam yesterday morning, with the airline saying all flights will remain suspended until April 30. As the last off-island flight

A total of 57 passengers took the last United Airlines flight from

**See 57 on Page 4**



Photo shows some of the 57 passengers and companions lining up to check in at the counter of United Airlines at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport yesterday morning. It was United Airlines' last flight between Saipan and Guam as it suspended its flights starting today, Monday, until April 30, due to the coronavirus pandemic.

FERDIE DE LA TORRE

## Furlough does not apply to PSS admin

By **KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA**  
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REPORTER

The Public School System administration will be exempted from the furlough that PSS is planning to impose on all its locally funded personnel.

During a Board of Education meeting last Saturday, Education Commissioner Dr. Alfred Ada stated that PSS central office staff, who are also locally funded, will not be included in the personnel furlough that they will soon announced.

Ada said that if PSS gets no money by Wednesday this week, he will have no choice but to furlough over 800 PSS staff.

When asked why central office staff are being spared, Ada said the

**See FURLOUGH on Page 4**

## Where will the bodies go? Morgues plan as virus grows

**CLAUDIA LAUER and JESSICA GRESKO**  
ASSOCIATE PRESS

**PHILADELPHIA (AP)**—There are the new dead. And then there are the bodies waiting in overcrowded mor-

tuaries to be buried as cities struggle to meet demand and families wrestle with rules on social distancing that make the usual funeral rituals impossible.

Med Alliance Group, a medical

distributor in Illinois, is besieged by calls and emails from cities around the country. Each asks the same thing: Send more refrigerated trailers so that we can handle a situation we

**See WHERE on Page 4**

## INSIDE



### LOCAL

The Commonwealth Office of Transit Authority has activated its entire fleet of buses and vans.

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### ASIA

China holds a three-minute moment of silence to remember the coronavirus outbreak victims.

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### LIFE & STYLE

The singer Pink said she and her 3-year-old son tested positive for COVID-19 but are OK now.

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**GOT A NEWS TIP?**

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## Local

## Volunteers needed for Guardian Mask Project

By IVA MAURIN  
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REPORTER

To help combat the spread of COVID-19 in the community, Rep. Sheila Babauta (Ind-Saipan) is spearheading The Guardian Mask Project, a volunteer movement that seeks to provide free and accessible masks for people in the CNMI.

According to Babauta, the

project, the goal of which is to create a thousand masks, is inspired by the "mask for all" movement around the world.

"We want to provide safe, accessible, and free masks to people in the community who really just need them, and we really need more than one since we want to keep [the masks] sanitized and clean," she said.

The project began Saturday, and Babauta's office is look-

ing for volunteers who can help sew the masks, as well as people who want to donate materials such as threads and bands.

The project is also looking for people who could host a "Guardian Tree," which are properties near roads where the free masks will be hung, to make it



Babauta

more accessible for members of the community to safely pick up a mask.

Aside from helping provide masks for those who need it but may not have the means to access it, Babauta initiated the project for people in the community to have an opportunity to volunteer and help in this time

of pandemic.

"A lot of us are looking for ways to help because this disaster is so different than any other disaster. This is not a typhoon where you can clearly see the disaster outside, and you know how you can help. ... This kind of disaster is different. We just got to be creative on ways we can help one other and provide the opportunities for our community," she said.

People who want to volunteer may email Babauta at rep.sbabauta@gmail.com.

"I support masks for all. I think we should all not just protect ourselves but if you change your perspective and think about it as you protecting others by containing your droplets, then I think it's worth it, and it's worth your time to volunteer. It's just worth the effort to get a mask," Babauta added.

## Public warned of rip currents today

The public is being warned of a high risk of rip currents through this afternoon.

Based on the information received from the National Weather Service in Tiyan, Guam, and compiled at the CNMI Emergency Operations Center State Warning Point, dangerous and frequent rip currents will be occurring along east facing reefs on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota through Monday afternoon.

Rip currents can sweep even the best swimmers away from shore into deeper water. Strong rip currents will be life threatening along east facing reefs. If you become caught in a rip current, stay afloat while waiting for help. If you have to swim out of a rip current, swim parallel to shore and back toward the beach when possible. Do not attempt to swim directly against a rip current as you will tire quickly. (PR)

## Temporary closure of District Court from physical access, other restriction extended

U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona has extended until May 15, 2020, the temporary closure of physical access to the court, including the clerk's office and the Office of Pretrial and Probation.

In the order Friday, Manglona said access to the court will only be available in accordance with procedures. Court employees will be available by telephone and email from 8am until 5pm on Monday through Friday, other than legal holidays, while they are teleworking during this courthouse closure.

Statute of limitations, statutory deadlines, and other required deadlines will not be tolled or excluded during this period unless specifically ordered by the court.

Manglona's new order amends and replaces her previous order in response to the COVID-19 outbreak, includ-

ing recent confirmed cases on Saipan.

The new order restricting access to the courthouse and limiting proceedings complies with the advice of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and other public health authorities about taking precautions to reduce the possibility of exposure to the coronavirus and to help stop the spread of the virus.

The judge also noted that President Donald J. Trump has declared a national public health emergency.

"In issuing this order, the court has weighed the right of public access to the court against the need to protect the health and safety of the public," Manglona said.

Manglona said entry restrictions will remain in effect until otherwise ordered. She said court security will deny entry into the courthouse the following:

■ If you have been asked to self-quarantine or self-isolate by any doctor, hospital or health agency in the last 14 days;

■ If you have been diagnosed with, or have had contact with, anyone who has been diagnosed with COVID-19 within the last 14 days;

■ If you have had a fever, dry cough, shortness of breath, or flu symptoms within the last 72 hours; or

■ If you are currently showing symptoms of a fever, dry cough, shortness of breath or flu.

Manglona said notice of the entry protocols applies to the public as well as all tenants and employees working in the Horiguchi Building.

She said individuals prevented from entering the building will be provided contact information of the court and all tenants of the courthouse so that they may attempt to con-

duct their business by phone or other remote means.

All civil and criminal jury selections and jury trials scheduled before May 15 are continued pending further court's order.

All regularly scheduled grand jury proceedings are continued to May 18. However, the U.S. Attorney may schedule grand jury proceedings for emergency or essential matters after consulting Manglona.

To the extent possible, all civil, criminal, and bankruptcy hearings will be conducted by telephone or video conference and determined by the presiding judge.

All sentencing and revocation hearings scheduled to be heard on or before May 15 will be conducted in conformance with Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act authorization for video and audio conferencing in certain criminal proceedings.

In cases where a defendant does not consent to proceeding via video conferencing, these sentencing and revocation hearings are continued until further court's order.

In addition, Manglona said, any previously ordered presentence report deadlines in these continued cases are vacated and will be rescheduled.

Manglona said criminal matters, such as initial appearances, arraignments and detention hearings, will be conducted by video conference with the defendant's consent.

Due to the court's reduced ability to empanel jurors, the time period of the continuances implemented by this order will be excluded under the Speedy Trial Act, she said, and that the court will issue findings in individual cases.

Manglona said the court is cognizant of the right of criminal defendants to a speedy trial under the 6th Amendment, and the application of that right in cases involving defendants who are detained pending trial. Manglona said any motion

by a criminal defendant seeking an extension to this order to exercise that right should be directed to the judge assigned to the matter.

She postponed all naturalization ceremonies, attorney admissions and other non-case related proceedings.

Manglona said the review and execution of warrants and complaints will be conducted remotely as arranged with the individual judge.

On filing and payments, Manglona said, all business with the clerk's office should be conducted by telephone and email from 8am to 5pm on Monday through Friday, except legal holidays.

All requests for court documents, including summons, subpoenas and federal records clearances, must be made by email to qclerk@nmid.uscourts.gov. or by calling the deputy clerk on duty at (670) 237-1200.

Cash/currency will not be accepted at this time. Manglona said only checks or money orders will be accepted. Criminal debts, miscellaneous fees, or any other payments must be made out to "Clerk, U.S. District Court." Payments should be mailed to: United States District Court for the NMI P.O. Box 500687 Saipan, MP 96950.

Filings will continue to be processed in all cases via the CM/ECF electronic system, except for case openings and sealed matters. Email filings will continue to be accepted. Those who must make in-person filings or payments may call the deputy clerk on duty at (670) 237-1200 and will be instructed to leave materials at the drop box at the courthouse.

In-person filings and payments will only be available from 8am to 12pm on Monday through Friday, except for legal holidays.

A longer version of this story is available at [www.saipantribune.com](http://www.saipantribune.com)

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# Beaches and pathways, docks and ramps are re-opened

By IVA MAURIN  
iva\_maurin@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

Anyone may once again access public beaches and pathways, from 6am to 6pm, but only for exercise and wellness, and for shoreline subsistence fishing.

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres,

## Spreading the word on how to stop spread of COVID-19 in Micronesia

Collaborating to help members of the Micronesian community to understand how they can slow the spread of CV-19, Mañelu has translated and recorded public service announcements in Kosraean, Pohnpeian and Chuukese. Choice Broadcasting has edited and produced the announcements and prepared them for airing on STAR101, BOSS104 and ThePOINT.

"We were concerned that some members of the community were not getting the information they needed to slow the spread of CV-19 and protect their families from the disease" said Samantha Tai-

last Friday, amended directive 14 of the Second Amended Executive Order 2020-04, and allowed for the individual use of all public beaches and pathways, to exercise and maintain both physical and mental wellness, and to do shoreline subsistence fishing, such as *talâya* tano of Manelu.

"We're all pulling on the same rope and everyone needs to know what steps they can take to 'flatten the curve,'" said Ray Gibson, managing partner of Choice Broadcasting. "We're happy to do the same for other groups that would like to reach out with their announcements for CV-19 programs."

Mañelu, formerly known as "Big Brothers Big Sisters of Guam," is a nonprofit organization based in Guam.

To "flatten the curve" is a statistical term that, in the case of the coronavirus, refers to limiting infections rates. (PR)

## Compact funds to help build quarantine facilities in FSM

WASHINGTON, D.C.—The U.S. Department of the Interior announced Friday the release of Compact of Free Association financial assistance to the Federated States of Micronesia. These emergency funds will help support and strengthen hospital and quarantine infrastructure in Chuuk State as the FSM works to contain the spread and impacts of the global coronavirus pandemic.

"We have redirected \$416,918 in prior-year Compact Infrastructure Maintenance Fund assistance to strengthen FSM's efforts in preparing for this global pandemic," said Insular and International Affairs assistant secretary Douglas W. Domenech. "At the direction of Interior Secretary David Bernhardt, we are moving quickly and decisively to support the FSM, which is critical in these difficult times."

"The U.S. and the FSM members of the Joint Eco-

nomic Management Committee are in favor of this decision to direct Compact funds toward COVID-19 infrastructure maintenance," said JEMCO chair and Office of Insular Affairs director Nikolao Pula. "We applaud officials, health care workers, and all at the national and state levels as they work to protect lives in the FSM."

"The United States and the FSM share a special and unique relationship," said U.S. Ambassador to the FSM Carmen G. Cantor. "The United States government is committed to working with the FSM to advance their response capabilities to this global pandemic."

Additional Compact funding requests are being prepared for review by the Office of Insular Affairs as the FSM finalizes its COVID-19 Preparation and Response Plan. The plan will then be submitted to the U.S. government to ensure coordination of efforts. (PR)

and rod and reel.

The governor stressed that social distancing must strictly be observed.

"Upon further consultations with my government team and members of the public, I believe that physical exercise and shoreline subsistence fishing are critical to maintaining our community's physical and mental health and wellness as long as strict social distancing requirements are met," he said in his new directive.

Torres initially ordered the closure of all public beaches and pathways to the public to lessen the points of interactions and contact people would have with each other, in relation to the directive to strictly implement social distancing to mitigate the spread of COVID-19 cases on the island.



CHEVY KATE ALPIO

People have taken to walking again around the Oleai track and field after Gov. Ralph DLG Torres rescinded his previous order that barred people from using public beaches and pathways.

"Our goal is to contain and minimize the spread of COVID-19 in the CNMI," the governor added.

## Judge issues ruling favorable to former IPI contractor

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE  
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REPORTER

U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona has issued a ruling favorable to a contractor who is suing Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) LLC for alleged non-payment of \$5.65 million in construction services.

At a hearing held via video conference last Thursday, Manglona denied IPI's motion to dismiss the lawsuit filed by its former contractor, Pacific Rim Land Development LLC.

According to the minutes of the hearing, Manglona also granted Pacific Rim's motion for summary judgment as to its claim for breach of promissory note.

The judge ordered Pacific Rim's counsel, Colin Thompson, to submit a proposal by April 9 with respect to fees and interest that IPI is liable to pay. IPI counsel Joseph Horey was ordered to respond no later than April 23. Thompson was also ordered to prepare and submit to the court for review a proposed order for summary judgment.

Manglona also stated that she has reconsidered the submission of a certified question with respect to the mechanic's lien issue and instead will issue an order on Pacific Rim's lien application.

Pacific Rim is suing IPI and five unnamed alleged co-conspirators for breach of contract (construction and promissory note), and unjust enrichment. Pacific Rim claimed to have substantially completed or completed the agreed-upon construction work on Sept. 30, 2018.

Thompson said the unpaid amount that is owed Pacific Rim is \$5.65 million but it wants to collect from IPI approximately \$10 million in damages that would be proven at trial. Pacific Rim also filed an application for a mechanic's lien on IPI's hotel-casino project and on the land that it

"Your wellbeing and emotional resilience are equally as essential to help our community get through the COVID-19 pandemic. Practice self-care responsibly by adhering to strict social distancing directives."

Also, boats ramps and docks on Saipan were reopened, following Torres' consultation with the U.S. Coast Guard Sector Guam commander Christopher Chase, the COVID-19 Task Force, and the members of the fishing and boating community.

The governor also emphasized the importance for all vessel operators to ensure that vessels are thoroughly checked and maintained prior to entering the water, and for operators and crew members to practice self-care responsibly.

sits on. A mechanic's lien refers to a security interest in the title to property for the benefit of those who have supplied labor or materials that improve the property.

In IPI's motion to dismiss the lawsuit, Horey asserted that there was no mediation yet prior to the filing of the suit and therefore the federal court should dismiss the case. Horey said the mediation that was contractually required as a condition before litigation did not take place prior to Pacific Rim instigating the lawsuit, and has not taken place since.

Horey asked the court to dismiss the lawsuit until such time the parties have attempted to resolve the dispute through mediation.

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# Critical medical supplies delivered for CNMI

At the request of Gov. Ralph DLG Torres, the Federal Emergency Management Agency, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, and the U.S. Department of Defense shipped over critical medical supplies and equipment, as well as a 50-bed federal medical station from the Strategic National Stockpile to Saipan on Saturday.

Torres, Lt. Gov. Arnold I. Palacios, Commonwealth Health Care Corp. chief executive officer Esther L. Muña, members of the CNMI Legislature, and the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force were at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport on Saturday to receive the supplies from the U.S. Air Force C17 Globemaster aircraft.

Last month, Torres notified FEMA and DoD of several unmet needs that are negatively impacting the CNMI's overall responsiveness in combating the COVID-19 pandemic. Subsequently, Torres initiated the Defense Support of Civil Authorities process through his request to U.S. Indo-Pacific commander Adm. Phillip Davidson for the immediate deployment of key essential resources to the CNMI.

"I am requesting the Department of Defense under your immediate response authority for the instant deployment of key essential resources," stated Torres, in his letter to Davidson on March 30, 2020.

The key resources the governor requested include, but are not limited to:

- Field medical hospital with beds,
- Medical team(s)
- Medical equipment and capabilities
- Lab testing capabilities with Biofire test kits
- Airlifts to bring in viral transport media and other medical supplies and equipment, inclusive of all relevant DoD capability to supplement and support the facilitation of local efforts against COVID-19

In response to the governor's request, Davidson immediately activated the Defense Coordinating Officer West to actively participate in the Governor's Unified Command Group, comprised of his COVID-19 Task Force, CHCC, Homeland Security & Emergency Management Services, in partnership with FEMA.

"I completely understand the ur-

gency of your requests and the unique challenges that CNMI faces. We have activated Harry Elliott as the DCO West to provide CNMI support to establish Mission Assignments addressing your needs," Davidson said in his letter to Torres.

The admiral also informed Torres that Maj. Gen. Suzie Vares-Lum of USINDOPACOM will be coordinating with FEMA Region IX administrator Bob Fenton to support the CNMI. Rear Admiral John Menoni, commander of Joint Region Marianas, will provide additional support on the local level.

"I am committed to assisting you through this crisis. We will provide any assistance possible. Please don't hesitate to reach out to me and my team," assured Davidson.

The activation of DCO West, in partnership with FEMA, would augment local efforts by the Governor's Task Force and CHCC to combat COVID-19. DCO Harry Elliott is now actively participating with the Governor's Unified Command Group and FEMA in identifying mission assignments. The governor and Menoni are synchronizing efforts to ensure efficient operations.

The shipment is part of President Donald J. Trump's Whole-of-America response initiatives, mobilizing full federal support through the White House Coronavirus Task Force to assist states and territories across the nation. This initiative provides for medical resources that are first sent to priority countries identified by FEMA and HHS.

"The fact that this is a global pandemic all across the United States

and territories, including us here, and everyone is requesting for the same medical resources makes it a national challenge. But with the strong partnership we have with our federal partners, we are able to get this shipment here. Every little help goes a long way and I would like to thank President Trump, FEMA, HHS, DoD, and all the partners who are supporting the CNMI in this fight," said Torres. (PR)

## FURLOUGH

From Page 1

key management staff are essential in running the different arms of PSS.

"The key management are also the people who have the capability to run their departments like, for example, the Student Support Services, the commissioner of that department, we need her for the ongoing learning at home packet. That is the reason why I need the key management. They're also stepping in to help out and they have been," he said.

Ada said these locally funded staff work hard, but many do not realize how much work they do and continue to criticize why they won't be experiencing a furlough like many other.

"A lot of people don't see the work that they do but, to tell you the truth, these guys work hard. It's easy to make that claim that key management makes too much. However, many do not realize that these key management people, they put in their time over 20 years-plus to become leaders. They are consistent and they are loyal to the system; that's why they're still there for over 20 years," he said.

According to *Saipan Tribune* archives, Ada said that furloughing staff is their best option and they are just waiting on assurance from the federal government that there will be assistance for those who will lose their jobs as a result of COVID-19 under the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act.

PSS needs to furlough its staff because, Ada said, allocations to PSS are close to nothing and they are struggling to pay locally funded personnel.

Currently, PSS still owes locally funded personnel 30% of their last payroll because they were only given 70% due to lack of funding.

PSS is looking forward to getting some relief from the Pandemic Unemployment Assistance provided under the recently enacted Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act, which would provide emergency unemployment assistance to workers who do not have unemployment insurance, which is not available in the U.S. territories.

The program will provide eligible workers weekly unemployment checks and jobless benefits for up to nine months.

## WHERE

From Page 1

never could have imagined.

"They're coming from all over: From hospitals, health systems, corner's offices, VA facilities, county and state health departments, state emergency departments and funeral homes," said Christie Penzol, a spokeswoman for Med Alliance. "It's heart-wrenching."

The company has rented all its trailers and there's an 18-week wait for new materials to build more, she said.

With U.S. medical experts and even President Donald Trump now estimating the death toll from the coronavirus pandemic could reach 240,000 nationwide, the sheer practicalities of death—where to put the bodies—are worrying just about everyone as cities, hospitals and private medical groups clamor to secure additional storage.

The need is compounded by private mortuary space that is occupied longer than usual as people wait to bury their loved ones—regardless of how they died—because rules on social distancing make planning funerals



A body wrapped in plastic is prepared to be loaded onto a refrigerated container truck used as a temporary morgue by medical workers due to COVID-19 concerns, Tuesday, March 31, 2020, at Brooklyn Hospital Center in the Brooklyn borough of New York.

AP

als difficult.

It's a crisis being repeated worldwide.

In Spain, where the death toll has climbed to nearly 12,000, an ice rink in Madrid was turned into a makeshift morgue after the city's municipal funeral service said it could no longer take coronavirus bodies until it was restocked with protective equipment.

In Italy, embalmed bodies in caskets are being sent to church halls and warehouses while they await cremation or burial.

And in the coastal Ecuadorian city of Guayaquil, macabre images and pleas from families on social media show dead loved ones wrapped in plastic or cloth, waiting for days to be taken away by overwhelmed morgue workers.

## 20-PLUS

From Page 1

from PIC today, having already completed the mandatory 14-day quarantine period.

*Saipan Tribune* tried to have this confirmed with press secretary Kevin Bautista yesterday but, as of 6pm press time, he said he has no information about the release and would need to double check with the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force.

The individual, who requested anonymity, said that they were supposed to be released on Sunday, since it marked their 14<sup>th</sup> day in quarantine, but since the last batch of passengers via United Airlines arrived from

Guam yesterday, their release was delayed.

The delay was allegedly intended to keep the new arrivals from crossing paths with those who have already completed the 14-day quarantine requirement.

The individual said that those who were not showing symptoms of COVID-19 were transferred to PIC over the weekend and those who tested positive or are showing symptoms of the virus remained at Kanoa Resort.

### COVID-19 in Guam

According to a Joint Information Center release, the Department of Public Health and Social Services tested 19 individuals for COVID-19 last Saturday and six tested positive

while 13 tested negative.

As of April 4, a total of 93 cases tested positive with 23 patients recovered. Guam's total COVID-19 deaths rose to four over the weekend.

Currently, of the 93 positive cases, 46 are stable, 20 are still hospitalized, 23 have recovered, and four have died. Of these cases, 44 are female and 49 are male.

Most of Guam's COVID-19 known positive cases have epidemiological links to other confirmed cases. Profiles of the 93 confirmed cases include reports of nine positive confirmed cases received from the U.S. Naval Hospital that were tested through the Department of Defense and sent off island.

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From Page 1

out of Saipan in the next 24 days, that effectively locks all CNMI residents on the islands until then.

*Saipan Tribune* learned that about 70 booked for the flight as the airlines' suspension of flights starts today, Monday, to April 30, due to the coronavirus pandemic.

As *Saipan Tribune* saw yesterday, the process at the United Airlines' counter at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport appeared orderly. Passengers and their companions were mostly wearing hospital masks and observing social distancing.

According to Commonwealth Ports Authority board chair Kimberly King-Hinds, United Airlines' flight suspension is "unfortunate but necessary and critical" to the whole-of-government approach to identify, contain, and isolate the spread of COVID-19 in the community.

King-Hinds said the effort to halt all flights began last January, but there were a lot of hurdles that they needed to get through to make this happen.

"To be able to say that our air bridges are closed in a U.S. jurisdiction is testament to the governor's and his administration's willingness to keep the community safe," she said.

Last week, United Airlines granted the request of Gov. Ralph DLG. Torres to suspend all its flights into and out of the CNMI from Guam

effective April 6 to 30, 2020, in the wake of the then-two confirmed COVID-19 cases and one death in the quarantine center on Saipan.

A 39-year-old Japanese national, who was among the passengers yesterday, said he would have preferred to stay on Saipan but his company instructed him to leave for Narita, Japan.

The man, who asked not to be identified, said he believes it's more dangerous to stay in Japan because of the coronavirus situation there. He said he has been working as a maintenance worker in a company on Saipan for four months already.

Another passenger, Ken Kinsin, 24, said he is going to reunite with his parents in Kansas. Upon reaching Guam, Kinsin's connecting flights will be Tokyo, then Chicago, and finally Kansas. Kinsin had just resigned from his job at McDonald's and purchased his plane ticket only last Saturday.

U.S. Postal Services, air shipment of cargo to and from Guam, and medical evacuation transport for health emergencies will not be disrupted by the temporary suspension of the Guam/CNMI United Airlines flights.

CPA said the daily transport of mail between the CNMI and Guam is serviced by Micronesian Air Cargo.

Skymark Airlines Inc.'s last flights between Saipan and Japan was last March 25, temporarily closing the CNMI's door to international flights. The suspension of Saipan-Narita, Narita-Saipan operation will be until May 10, 2020.



# Heavy equipment truck overturns on Isa Drive

On April 2, 2020, at about 10:51am, the CNMI Department of Public Safety received a 911 call reporting an overturned "honeywagon" on Isa Drive, near Vestcor Village. Nearby units responded to the scene. A honeywagon

is a truck used to collect and transport human waste.

At approximately 10:52am, the first unit arrived on scene and noticed the overturned heavy equipment had human waste spilling from its containment tank. The officer

checked the status of the operator and notified dispatch that the operator was stuck inside the cabin with his left leg pinned in the cabin and was experiencing pain on his left arm. Other units arrived and quickly directed traffic.

At about 10:54am, medics arrived on scene and assisted the driver of the overturned vehicle. The Jaws-of-Life tool was used to safely extract the driver from the truck's cabin. Units from the Department of Fire and Emergency Medical Services flushed the contents that had spilled from the overturned truck off the road.

At about 11:34am, the driver was taken out of the truck and

put onto a spine board before being transported to the Commonwealth Health Center, where he was admitted for his injuries.

After a follow-up interview, police learned that the driver had just left Kagman and was heading down Isa Drive when he noticed that the brakes on his vehicle were not functioning properly. The driver attempted to slow the vehicle by shifting to a lower gear, to no

avail. The driver then looked for an area where he could limit damage to the vehicle, surrounding motorists, and himself. After noticing a hill, the driver chose to use the hill to slow the vehicle, before it overturned along the shoulder of the road. Police found that the driver was not using his seatbelt during the incident, which led to severe injuries the operator sustained. (PR)

## Motion for criminal contempt vs DPS chief denied

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**  
ferdie\_delatorre@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona has denied U.S. Army Ranger veteran Paul Murphy's motion for the court to initiate criminal contempt proceedings against Department of Public Safety Commissioner Robert Guerrero, whom Murphy accused of violating the court's order in connection with his previous lawsuit over a gun issue where he prevailed.

In her order last Wednesday, Manglona said she offers no opinion whether Second Special Act for Firearms Enforcement's registration regulations would pass constitutional muster as that was not an issue presented to her when she issued the previous order that is the subject of Murphy's motion for criminal contempt.

Manglona said she does, however, find that Guerrero (or the Commonwealth) has not willfully violated the court's order stopping it from enforcing the registration requirements in 6 CMC Section 2204 because that section has been repealed.

The judge added that while SAFE 2 did not repeal or amend the language in 4 CMC Section 1407(b) that she had found unconstitutional, she notes that Murphy has not alleged that the Commonwealth seized or withheld any of his firearm because they were not registered. Therefore, Manglona said, to the extent that section 1407(b) is unconstitutional, Murphy has presented no evidence that the Commonwealth continues to enforce the unconstitutional aspects of that law.

In 2014, Murphy sued to challenge the CNMI's gun control laws, as enacted in the Weapons Control Act and amended by the Special Act for Firearms Enforcement, Public Law 19-42, as violating his Second Amendment right to keep and bear arms.

On Sept. 28, 2016, Manglona ruled that some provisions of Commonwealth law unconstitutionally violate the Sec-

ond and 14th Amendments. The judge held that the firearm registration requirements in the Commonwealth Code—as outlined in 6 CMC Section 2204 and the last sentence of 4CMC Section 14-7(b)—do not pass constitutional muster. Manglona permanently stopped Guerrero and the Commonwealth from enforcing those provisions.

Two months after Manglona's ruling, the government enacted Public Law 19-73, or SAFE 2, on Dec. 1, 2016, repealing 6 CMC Section 2204 in its entirety and creating a new statutory structure, separating the provisions governing firearms licensing, now found at 6 CMC Sections 10601, and firearm registration, found at 6 CMC Sections 10701-10703. SAFE 2 did not repeal or amend 4 CMC Section 1407.

The last sentence of 4 CMC Section 1407(b) remains unchanged even if Manglona found that it violates the Second Amendment insofar that it is a registration measure: "However, firearms may not be released until complete payments of all taxes due and owing is made, and upon a showing that the firearm has been properly registered and that the owner has a valid Weapons Identification Card of Firearms Identification Card," she said.

In 2016 and 2019, Murphy applied for a renewal of his individual firearms license under protest. He particularly objects to the following language in Section 3 of the application: "You may keep and possess(s) only the firearms that you register."

Last Jan. 30, Murphy asked the court to hold Guerrero in criminal contempt for violating the court's Sept. 2016, order by enforcing the firearm registration regulation. Murphy wanted Guerrero held in criminal contempt for DPS' enforcement of the firearm registration provisions of SAFE 2, which he asserts is a violation of the court's order finding the firearm registration requirements of the Weapons Control Act

and SAFE 1 in violation of the Second Amendment.

Manglona does not interpret Murphy's motion as an attempt to charge Guerrero and co-defendants with criminal contempt, which is clearly beyond his authority, but rather as a request that the court initiate criminal contempt proceedings pursuant to its authority based on the information he has provided.

In Guerrero or Commonwealth's opposition to the motion, the government argued that it is not in violation of the court's order because it is not enforcing the statutory provisions that the court had found unconstitutional.

Guerrero, through the Office of the Attorney General, argued that those firearm registration requirements were repealed, and the Commonwealth enacted new legislation, a statute it claims was designed to comply with the September 2017 order and, more generally, the Second Amendment.

The OAG said that, in his motion for contempt, Murphy misinterprets the court's previous order. The OAG said the court did not hold that all registration requirements for firearms violate the Second Amendment. Instead, OAG said, the court limited its holding to the rationale presented for the Commonwealth registration requirements in the Weapons Control Act and SAFE 1. The court held that those registration requirements did not pass intermediate scrutiny because they did not rationally serve the Commonwealth's stated interest in preventing gun-related deaths.

In denying Murphy's motion for sanction, Manglona said she does not agree to the extent that Murphy appears to argue that the provisions of SAFE 2 are the same as those provisions the court found unconstitutional.

Manglona said as the Commonwealth points out, there are practical differences between the prior law and the current scheme for firearm licensing and registration.

## Curfew violator is arrested

On April 2, 2020, at about 12:30am, a CNMI Department of Public Safety patrol unit was conducting routine patrol in Chalan Kanoa when the officer noticed two persons laughing and sitting in the parking lot of the Mount Carmel Cathedral.

As the officers approached the individuals they noticed the strong odor of alcohol.

As officers attempted to educate the two of the importance of the curfew, one individual thanked the officer and said he would return home.


The second individual refused to return home and continued to push the officer each time the officer approached him. After many attempts to calm the individual, he was finally arrested and brought to the Department of Corrections where he was booked and detained. (PR)



### PPES FOR DISTRIBUTION

GRACE SIMONEAU/FEDERAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY

A shipment of medical Personal Protective Equipment is received from the Strategic National Stockpile to be sorted and distributed throughout Hawaii, the CNMI, Guam, and American Samoa. FEMA works with the state of Hawaii, CNMI, Guam, and American Samoa to distribute PPE to areas battling care for coronavirus patients.



## Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

### Office of the Executive Director

# REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

## CUC-IFB-20-001

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### SUPPLY & DELIVERY OF FUEL FOR POWER GENERATION

The Office of the Executive Director for the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed bids for the supply and delivery of approximately 20,000,000 US gallons annually of **No. 2-D S15 Ultra Low Sulfur Diesel Fuel** for CUC Power Generation facilities on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota. The No. 2-D S15 Ultra Low Sulfur Diesel shall be uniform, first quality, ultra-low sulfur type, which shall conform in all aspects to the requirements, as set forth in "Standard Specification for Diesel Fuel Oil" **ASTM D975-14**.

All Bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the Offeror due to lack of information or understanding of the proposal requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a proposal or supply under the contract.

The Bid Price shall remain the same throughout the term of the contract except for the variation in the MOPS and government taxes, duties and fees.

Prospective Bidders must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division. The Bid Package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of \$200.00 (non-refundable) for one IFB package set.

**One (1) Original and Five (5) Hard Copies** of the bid shall be submitted in a sealed envelope marked **"CUC-IFB-20-001, Supply and Delivery of Fuel for Power Generation"** to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, **no later than 10:00 AM (ChST) April 9, 2020**, at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Bids mailed via postal or courier service must be received on or before due date and time or post-marked before due date and time. Bid shall be submitted on the provided Bid Forms. Bidders are required to complete all Bid Forms. Bidders may supplement this form as appropriate. Bids will be required to be submitted under a condition of irrevocability for a period of 60 days after submission. Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered.

A **Bid Guarantee** of fifteen (15%) percent of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands or otherwise secured in a manner satisfactory to CUC, for the protection of all persons supplying labor and material to the contractor or its subcontractors for the performance of the work provided for in the contract. All insurers' questions, concerns and qualification shall be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). **Bidders are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.**

All responses to this IFB should take into account any and all taxes, including excise tax, which will become the obligation of the proponent awarded a contract. Successful proponents will be required to submit a copy of a valid CNMI Business license in compliance with the Contractor's Registration and Licensing Laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, upon award of the contract.

Proponents shall be required to comply with all applicable CNMI and Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations.

This Invitation for Bids does not commit CUC to the award of a contract or contracts, nor to pay any cost incurred in the preparation and submission of bids in anticipation of a contract. Bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid under the contract.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from pre-registered prospective bidders and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on March 24, 2020** to Manny B. Sablan, CUC-Purchasing Administrator via email address [manny.sablan@cucgov.org](mailto:manny.sablan@cucgov.org) with a copy to CUC-Power Engineer, Venugopal Prabhakar via email address [venu.pabrahakar@cucgov.org](mailto:venu.pabrahakar@cucgov.org) and Christie Sablan, CUC-Purchasing Technician, Senior via email address [christie.sablan@cucgov.org](mailto:christie.sablan@cucgov.org).

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids for any reason and to waive any defects in said bid, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

GARY P. CAMACHO  
Executive Director

MANNY BOYER SABLAN  
Purchasing Administrator



# COTA services on full operation in pandemic response

Since the beginning of the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force's quarantine mission assignment, the Commonwealth Office of Transit Authority has activated its entire fleet of buses and vans in order to safely transport travelers to designated quarantine facilities.

"COTA has played a pivotal role on our COVID-19 Task Force, safely transporting travelers to our designated facilities and ensuring that accommodations are provided to our *man'amko*, our sick, and our people with disabilities. Lt. Gov. [Arnold I.] Palacios and I commend Special Assistant [for Public Transportation Alfreda P.] Camacho and her staff for their hard work in assisting our first responders," said Gov. Ralph DLG Torres.

In response, Camacho said, "COTA is humbled to serve and do our part to support and protect our community during these challenging times for our Commonwealth. We are proud to be a part of a task force full of agencies that have that same mindset."

As the CNMI continues its response to this global pandemic, COTA and CNMI first responders intend to stay adaptable to this evolving operation.

"Our initial operations consisted of airport to quarantine facility transports only. With the recent developments, we continue working closely with all the line agencies within the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force as our role expanded to include all transports going into the quarantine zones, no matter where they may originate from," Camacho added.

According to COTA operations and mobility coordinator Joe Pangelinan, COTA



The Commonwealth Office of Transit Authority has activated its entire fleet of buses and vans in order to safely transport travelers to designated quarantine facilities.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS

works with the Department of Fire and Emergency Medical Services and the Department of Public Safety, both under the Governor's COVID-19

Task Force, to ensure streamlined communication and on-time pickups.

"We first receive a call from the Governor's COVID-19

Task Force, and we are informed of the number of travelers, their pick-up location at the airport, and the pick-up time. We then contact DFEMS



and DPS and disseminate that information. Through the three agencies, we align all assets and staff that are needed, and proceed to the pick-up point," Pangelinan said.

Within this operation,

COTA deployed two minibuses and eight passenger vans. As of April 2, 2020, COTA's vehicles have safely transported 292 travelers to quarantine facilities in 66 trips. (PR)

## NMC students adjust to new norm

Transitioning from going to classes at their As Terlaje campus to just turning on their laptops or going on their mobile gadgets to access online learning has required a major adjustment for many Northern Marianas College students.

Anela Duenas, 19, said the transition from face-to-face classes has been rough, especially with her microbiology class. She said online classes require so much more from students in terms of engaging yourself in the course and teaching yourself the material either from videos, text, or PowerPoint.

"Teaching myself microbiology for the past week has been tough but not impossible. I prefer face-to-face classes because we have lab days that require hands-on activities. I feel that I am not getting the most out of my classes through online courses," she said.

This was echoed by John Reyes, 20. He said he has had online classes before but that isn't really his preferred style of learning, as he still learns best in an actual classroom. "It isn't ideal but it's the only option we have right now so my class and instructors are always making ways to make it more immersive," he said.

But such is the new reality now, especially since the novel coronavirus infection has reached the CNMI's shores, with eight positive cases and one death recorded so far.

"Working from home is nice but there are just too many distractions at home.

I also have been struggling with my assignments recently because I can't have that communication that I used to have on campus. But, on the bright side, I'm happy that my instructors are still putting in the same amount of work or even more with virtual classes. This situation isn't just taking a toll on us students [but on] our instructors as well," he added.

Another student from NMC, who asked not to be named, said she does not prefer it this way.

"The pros are that I do not need to drive so far for classes. However, I dislike the workload that is given on the online platform. I personally take six classes in total, four on ground and two online. Having them all online makes it difficult for me," said the student.

Another said he always preferred learning in a classroom because he pays more attention through face-to-face interaction.

"I tend to procrastinate more often since we're doing online classes. There's so much due dates I have to remember. The only thing I like about having online class is that we get to learn and do the work at our own time," he added.

NMC suspended face-to-face classes last March 16 on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota in an effort to counter the then possible spread of COVID-19 on the islands.

Majority of face-to-face classes actually transitioned to online platforms last March 18, with the remaining classes moving online last March 23. (Chevy Kate Alipio)

## Kilili, Grijalva ask FEMA chief for assurances of aid to territories

WASHINGTON, D.C.—Rep. Raúl M. Grijalva (D-Ariz.) and Delegate Gregorio Sablan (Ind-MP) wrote Pete Gaynor, administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency, last Wednesday to seek more information on the administration's COVID-19 response plans in U.S. territories, where weak economies and recent natural disasters are now putting hundreds of thousands of Americans at particular risk.

In the letter—<https://bit.ly/2xFz17z>—the lawmakers ask Gaynor for a briefing and written documentation on the administration's plans to assist American Samoa, the CNMI, Guam, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands, and note that President Donald J. Trump only signed Major Dis-

saster Declarations for Guam and Puerto Rico for additional COVID-19 support last week. Sablan is vice chair for Insular Affairs.



Sablan



Grijalva

Elected leaders in the territories have been taking necessary precautions. Puerto Rico Gov. Wanda Vázquez shut down the island's beaches, clubs, and all non-essential business on March 16, well ahead of many similar orders in the U.S. mainland, despite Puerto Rico's economic reliance on tourism. Still, Gri-

jalva and Sablan noted in their letter that U.S. territories face unique COVID-19 challenges due to their geographic location, unequal treatment under federal programs, and dire financial situation. Most of the islands have recently been impacted by severe natural disasters—Hurricane Maria, Hurricane Irma, Super Typhoon Yutu, Super Typhoon

Mangkhut, and the earthquakes in Puerto Rico—that have further weakened their health care infrastructure and limited their ability to effectively respond to new emergencies.

Grijalva and Sablan published a March 27 op-ed in *El Nuevo Dia* calling for a more concerted federal coronavirus

response for U.S. territories and insular areas. In that piece, available at <https://bit.ly/39mimTx>, the authors wrote:

"The pandemic has not just highlighted the cracks in what we think of as everyday life. It's put a bright spotlight on many communities we've ignored, neglected and conveniently forgotten about. Allowing millions of Americans across the country to live in poverty, with substandard housing and medical care, was always a policy choice, not an inevitable economic necessity, and the cost of that choice in human lives is now going up every day," they said.

The two asked Gaynor for documents and more information no later than April 15. (PR)



# Medical supplies are delivered to American Samoa



U.S. COAST GUARD/PETTY OFFICER 3RD CLASS MATTHEW WEST

Petty Officer 2nd Class Garth Booye, an aviation maintenance technician, loads medical supplies into a Coast Guard HC-130 Hercules airplane at Air Station Barbers Point, Hawaii, March 31, 2020.

**HONOLULU**—The U.S. Coast Guard and Air Force worked together with the Federal Emergency Management Agency to ensure the timely delivery of a shipment of medical Personal Protective Equipment to medical responders in the U.S. territory of American Samoa, and the strategic deepwater Port of Pago Pago, last Wednesday.

“FEMA notified the Coast Guard of the need [on] March 27, and we worked collectively for a whole of government response to expedite the time-

ly delivery,” said Capt. Craig O’Brien, chief of response, Coast Guard 14th District.

The pallet of supplies arrived safely at the main airport in Tafuna on the island of Tutuila aboard a Coast Guard HC-130 Hercules airplane from Air Station Barbers Point, Oahu, Wednesday after earlier movement from the Strategic National Stockpile by the Air Force aboard a C-17 Globemaster airplane to Hickam Air Field, also on Oahu.

The services continue to support the Centers for Dis-

ease Control and Prevention, state, and local health officials for matters involving the pandemic and remains ready to respond to emergency needs throughout the region. Similar deliveries may take place soon to assist other regional partners.

“Military aircraft are a work-

horse throughout the world, and in the Coast Guard, we frequently use our HC-130 Hercules planes to deliver necessary supplies and equipment. This is especially true in the Pacific, where we seek to overcome vast distances and challenging timelines,” said Cmdr.



U.S. COAST GUARD/LT. CMDR. KARL SAVACCOOL

A U.S. Coast Guard HC-130 Hercules airplane crew brought various supplies to American Samoa, April 1, 2020.

James Morrow, a Hercules pilot and operations officer at Air Station Barbers Point.

American Samoa is a collection of five islands in the South Pacific, approximately 2,600 miles southwest of Honolulu. It is home to around 64,000 people, many of whom serve in the U.S. military. Tuna is a vital export from the South Pacific. The associated industries and services are a significant means of employment in

the region. The Coast Guard maintains some authority in the area and assists local agencies in enforcing federal regulations with an emphasis on maritime commerce and environmental ocean stewardship.

“Safe flow of maritime commerce in and out of the Port of Pago Pago is a priority of the U.S. Coast Guard. It contributes to strategic national objectives and a free and open Indo-Pacific,” said O’Brien. **(USCG)**

## Puerto Rico discovers protective supply cache amid COVID-19

By **DANICA COTO**  
ASSOCIATED PRESS

**SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico** (AP)—The suspected mismanagement of essential supplies during Hurricane Maria turned out to be a boon for Puerto Rico as it fights a rise in coronavirus cases.

Health Secretary Lorenzo González said Saturday that officials discovered a cache of urgently needed personal protective equipment at a hospital in the nearby island of Vieques that remains closed since the Category 4 storm hit the U.S. territory in September 2017.

He said the equipment includes face masks, gloves, gowns and face shields that were in good condition and would be distributed to health institutions.

“They’re very useful at this moment,” he said.

Puerto Rico has reported 18 deaths related to COVID-19, including that of a nurse, and more than 450 confirmed cases, including several police officers who join health workers in demanding more personal protective equipment.

“Police are going the extra mile right now, and the gov-

ernment is not protecting us like it should,” said Gregorio Matías, vice president of a police union.

The discovery in Vieques outraged many on an island still struggling to recover from Maria and from a series of strong earthquakes that hit Puerto Rico’s southern region in recent months.

González said he has ordered an investigation into why those supplies were abandoned in Vieques. The announcement comes two months after a group of Puerto Ricans discovered and broke into a warehouse filled with emergency supplies in southern Puerto Rico at a time local officials sought urgent help for those affected by a string of earthquakes. Other similar discoveries have been made since Maria hit.

González said the government still needs other equipment including testing kits and ventilators, noting that there are only 500 available for an island of 3.2 million people with high rates of asthma.

“If that’s going to be the difference between life and death, people are going to die,” he said. “Don’t take this lightly.”

## MCS students return to school online

Despite the global impact of the COVID-19 virus, Mount Carmel School students returned to school through online synchronous sessions last Wednesday, April 1, and last Thursday, April 2, 2020.

After the first day of online classes, Mount Carmel School’s 4th-grade teacher, Claire Cabrera, said, “The first week of classes went very well. While my students are still adjusting, many of them are eager to learn and come together for class. ... ‘I’m also very happy to see just how supportive our parents are to ensure their children are prepared for this transition. This is all new to us, but we are all doing our best to make it work.’”

MCS fourth grade student Jayson Tagabuel said, “The first day back to school was great. I am looking forward to getting good grades.”

Another from Cabrera’s class said, “My first day back to school was amazing. I’m looking forward to us getting used to Zoom, Edmodo, and all the other apps and websites like it’s our normal school day so we’re used to it.”

The president of the MCS Parent Council, Tina Tudela Crisostimo, said, “Although my son is still getting used to online classes, it was a great first day back to school and instructions were easy to follow. I’m very happy to see my children learning again after the postponement of classes.”

To help parents prepare for



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

To ensure Mount Carmel School students, families, and employees are safe during the COVID-19 crisis, MCS transitioned to online classes on Wednesday, April 1, 2020, through Zoom and other free online tools. In this photo are MCS students and their teacher during the first day of online classes.

the transition to online classes, Mount Carmel School provided a “Parent Guide for Online Learning” and all the primary tools MCS faculty members will be using for online courses, which include Zoom, Edmodo, Achieve3000, and Khan Academy, all of which have a free account option.

Mount Carmel School president Dr. Galvin Deleon Guerrero said, “Despite the drastic impact the COVID-19 epidemic has made on our community and around the world, we are happy to have our students learning again and establishing a new sense of normalcy for them. ... We know that online learning is not the most preferred method

for primary education, but our team at MCS is committed to effectively engaging and teaching our students despite the present circumstances.”

To meet the needs of families and educational needs of students, Mount Carmel School prepared to hold asynchronous and synchronous classes. During asynchronous classes, students are not required to log in at a specific time to complete their coursework and can work independently with the help of their family. Synchronous classes are defined as an online class structure similar to that in a face-to-face class, in which students meet with their instructor in real time and communicate with each other.

Every Monday, Tuesday, and Friday, MCS will hold asynchronous classes and every Wednesday and Thursday, students are expected to participate in synchronous classes following the school’s original block schedule for those days.

The school’s Leadership Team, guided by Bishop Ryan P. Jimenez and the school’s board of directors, are making decisions based on the best and most accurate information available at any given time. Stakeholders are assured that the school will provide ample notification and information to all students, parents, teachers, and families through the school website, social media outlets, and local media. **(PR)**



# Opinion

*Hafa Adai!*  
**Saipan Tribune**  
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## EDITORIAL

### Let's have paid staycations instead of unemployment

By **NARAYANA KOCHERLAKOTA**  
BLOOMBERG OPINION

**T**he Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis recently estimated that the U.S. unemployment rate might exceed 30% in the next few months. If this happens, it won't be the inevitable consequence of the coronavirus pandemic and the associated public health response. It will be the fault of elected officials for failing to pursue a solution that's right in front of them.

I call it the paid staycation.

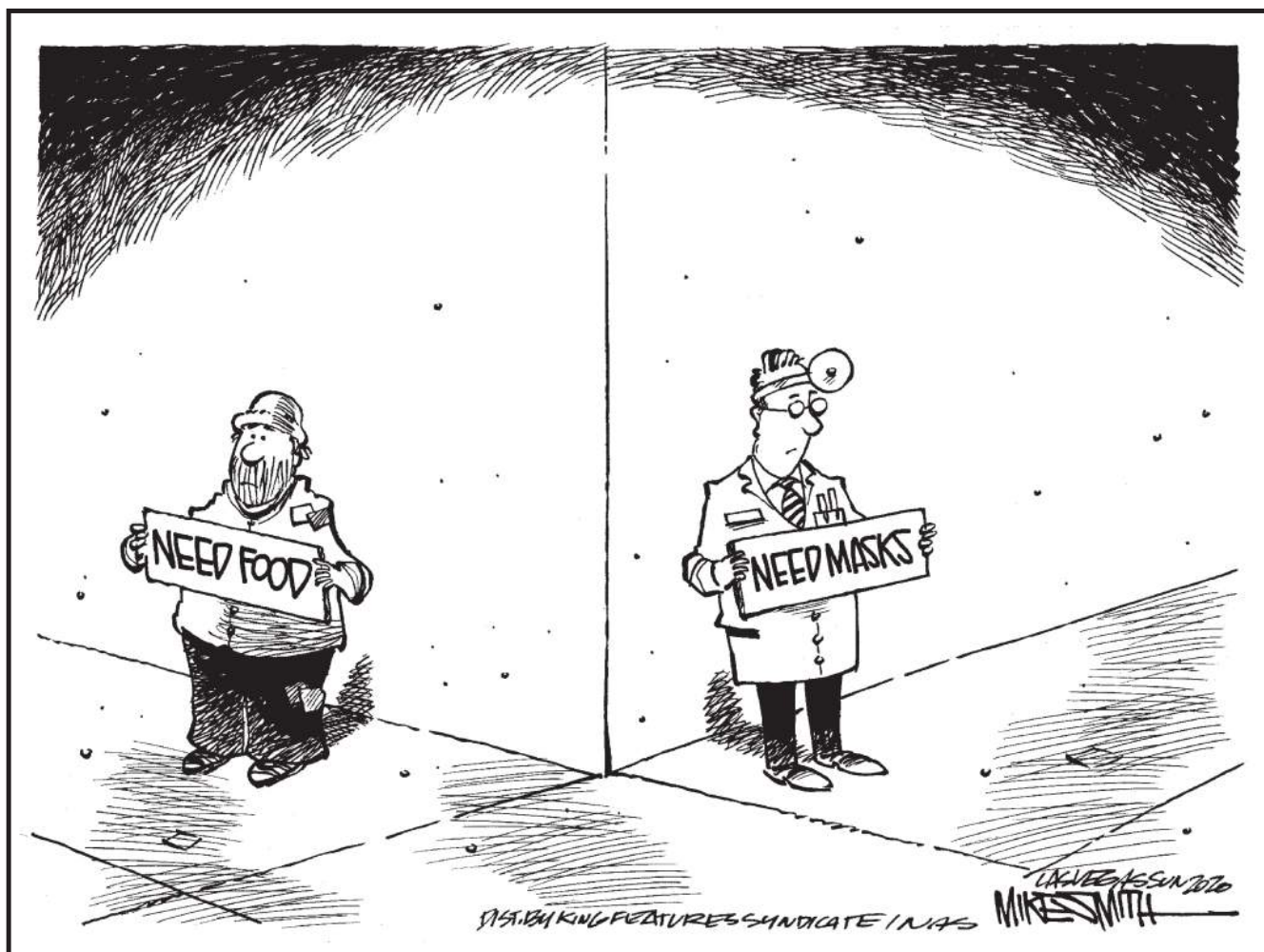
In the absence of widespread testing, tracing and quarantining, mandatory social distancing is the only way to reduce the human toll of COVID-19. So it's necessary, even desirable, that economic activity decline—possibly by a lot. Millions of Americans must cease work, possibly for a long time, in order to combat the pandemic. Hence the forecasts that the unemployment rate will rise to double digits, and potentially to Depression-era levels.

But all these people shouldn't be unemployed in the official sense. To qualify for unemployment benefits, they must be actively seeking a job (meaning that they have looked in the past four weeks). Making an entire third (or even a tenth) of the labor force apply for jobs during a mandated economic shutdown would be completely nonsensical, even cruel. These workers have been idled to save lives. If they're nonessential and unable to work from home, they should be on staycation, not sending out resumes.

What to do? At least for the next few months, the federal government should make staycation payments to people whose last job has vanished due to social distancing restrictions. The payments should not be conditional on looking for work, like traditional unemployment benefits. And the payments should be sufficiently large—I'd say 100% of prior wages plus health insurance—to make pursuing a new job unattractive. This would properly recognize the public service these people are providing, and prevent the unemployment rate from reaching an unthinkable figure like 30%.

Paid staycations would be expensive. Over a six-month period, they might cost as much as \$2 trillion. But the government is able to borrow extremely cheaply. It should be using that power to minimize the pain and suffering implied by a high unemployment rate.

*Narayana Kocherlakota is a Bloomberg Opinion columnist. He is a professor of economics at the University of Rochester and was president of the Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis from 2009 to 2015.*



### Solid science is essential during this pandemic

**A** few decades ago, I noticed that my aging father, who loathed all jewelry besides his wedding ring, was wearing a copper bracelet.

"It's supposed to be good for aches and pains," he muttered, sounding a bit less than convinced of its alleged powers. "Y'know that's probably not going to do you any good," I said, seizing this golden opportunity to show that his help with my college costs had not gone to waste.

"Well," he said with a shrug, "it's probably not going to do me any harm either."

Also true. As I later confirmed through a little library research, there is scant evidence of any medicinal impact of copper bracelets, except perhaps turning your wrist green.

Unfortunately, not all such disputes over alleged wonder cures are so easily resolved.

The rise of the coronavirus pandemic in our American age of social networks and sociopolitically polarized everything has led to an explosive mix of facts, falsehoods, rumors, snake oil sales and paranoid alternative realities, all preying on public fear and desperation.

Although this is hardly the first time that an information crisis has broken out within a larger, sweeping public health crisis, one is hard-pressed to recall one in which the nation's president is this deeply supportive of the untested miracle cure side of the debate as President Donald Trump has been.

The contrast came into full public view at the president's March 20 daily coronavirus press briefing when reporters asked about chloroquine, a drug typically used for malaria that Trump touted earlier in the week as a possible treatment for COVID-19, the disease caused by the virus.

After Trump praised chloroquine again, Dr. Anthony Fauci, the widely respected head of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, politely stepped up to the microphones to caution that evidence supporting chloroquine as safe and effective against COVID-19 is thin and anecdotal until clinical trials can be conducted.

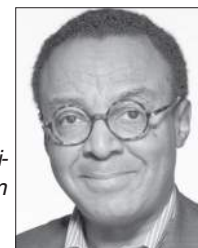
It's hard to argue with Fauci, who has held his post through administrations of both parties since the early 1980s. But Trump stepped back up to give it a try.

"I'm probably more of a fan of that—maybe than anybody," he said. "But I'm a big fan, and we'll see what happens. We all understand what the doctor (Fauci) said is 100% correct: It's early. But I have seen things that are impressive. We'll see. We're gonna know soon."

I have often said that if I ever write a book on Trump's presidency, the perfect title might well be, "We'll See What Hap-

By **CLARENCE PAGE**  
Chicago Tribune

*Clarence Page is a member of the Chicago Tribune Editorial Board. Readers may send him email at [cpage@tribune.com](mailto:cpage@tribune.com).*



pens." It seems to be his most-used conversational closer, regardless of the topic.

But this time he continued: "I feel good about it. That's all it is: Just a feeling. I'm a smart guy."

Right. As my copper bracelet-wearing dad used to say, whenever somebody tells you how smart they are, they probably aren't.

Still, Trump capped it off in familiar fashion: "I've been right a lot. Let's see what happens."

Yes, let's. Unfortunately, there are a lot of people who don't want to wait.

Dr. Vladimir Zelenko, a New York family doctor, got this national conversation started after treating people with coronavirus-like symptoms with an experimental treatment that includes the anti-malarial medication hydroxychloroquine, a less-toxic derivative of chloroquine.

Sean Hannity, Fox News host and close Trump friend, promoted Zelenko's claims on his TV and radio shows. Mark Meadows, incoming White House chief of staff, called Zelenko to get more information. Rudy Giuliani also praised him in a podcast interview, and Trump began to promote it as "very effective" and possibly "the biggest game changer in the history of medicine," despite the lack of proper testing and research to support that.

Still, self-described "smart guy" Trump has been smart enough to keep Fauci on his coronavirus task force, despite some loony claims by paranoid right wing and, I would argue, anti-science conspiracy theorists.

The wing nuts suspect or claim to suspect Fauci, a leading expert and advocate of social distancing, is secretly trying to undermine Trump's reelection chances. In fact, he's a major asset in Trump's effort to stop the virus and keep his job.

But don't expect rational thinking from the paranoid right or left. The threats have led to Fauci's receiving enough death threats to be assigned enhanced personal security. Asked about it, he bravely shrugged off the threats and security as an unfortunate part of his job. But he deserves better. Much better.



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## Statement from SSA chief

*Editor's Note: The author released the following statement about COVID-19 economic impact payments for beneficiaries*

I want to provide an update to people who receive benefits from the Social Security Administration.

The Department of the Treasury announced on April 1 that Social Security beneficiaries who are not typically required to file tax returns will not need to file an abbreviated tax return to receive an economic impact payment. The IRS will use the information on the Form SSA-1099 to generate \$1,200 economic impact payments to Social Security beneficiaries who did not file tax returns in 2018 or 2019.

Treasury, not Social Security, will make automatic payments to Social Security beneficiaries. Beneficiaries will

receive these payments by direct deposit or by paper check, just as they would normally receive their Social Security benefits.

For updates from the IRS, visit [www.irs.gov/coronavirus](http://www.irs.gov/coronavirus).

For Supplemental Security Income recipients, we are working closely with Treasury to address outstanding questions about our SSI recipients in an attempt to make the issuance of economic impact payments as quick and efficient as possible. We realize people are concerned, and the IRS will provide additional information at [www.irs.gov/coronavirus](http://www.irs.gov/coronavirus) when available. Please note that we will not consider economic impact payments as income for SSI recipients, and the payments are excluded from resources for 12 months.

**By ANDREW SAUL**

Special to the Saipan Tribune



*Andrew Saul is commissioner of the Social Security Administration.*

We will continue to update Social Security's COVID-19 web page at [www.socialsecurity.gov/coronavirus/](http://www.socialsecurity.gov/coronavirus/) as further details become available.

## Is the cavalry finally on the way to help keep small businesses alive? Kinda sorta

Are you a small business owner or employee scared stiff about the COVID-19 pandemic putting you out of work? Or a small nonprofit or sole proprietorship? Good news—the calvary rides in today! Well, some of them. Maybe.

Amidst one of the biggest surges ever in U.S. unemployment, banks were scheduled to launch a new federally guaranteed low-interest loan program Friday to help small businesses avoid layoffs, furloughs and pay cuts. The Small Business Administration's Paycheck Protection Program, the first tangible fruit of the \$2-trillion economic rescue bill that Congress recently passed, offers businesses and nonprofits with 1 to 500 employees short-term loans that will be completely forgiven if the money is spent mainly on their workers.

The loans would cover two months' worth of payroll, rent and utility costs, keeping even a mothballed company on life support while waiting for the pandemic to pass. Except that it looks like many desperate borrowers are going to have to wait a little longer for the help to arrive.

Nearly \$350 billion for the loans was included in the big stimulus bill, H.R. 748. That money will cover the costs of forgiving the Payroll Protection Program loans and the fees paid to banks—from 5% of the principal amount for loans of \$350,000 or less, down to 1% of the principal amount for loans of \$2 million or more.

(Yes, it's grating to see that the banking industry will once again be profiting from our misery. But banks are far better equipped to get these loan dollars out rapidly to struggling businesses than the government is, and their services aren't free.)

There's a lot to like about the loan program, starting with the fact that it will keep people in their jobs. After the bloodbath in the labor markets over the last two weeks, with 10 million people filing initial claims for unemployment benefits, that's a welcome tonic. Friday's unemployment numbers from the Bureau of Labor Statistics, which showed an increase of 1.4 million idled workers

and an unemployment rate of 4.4%, were based on data collected before states started issuing the stay-at-home orders that are choking the economy. Adding the last two weeks' claims would more than double the unemployment rate.

Washington is moving so fast to get the program going, though, it may have given too little attention to some crucial details. In particular, bankers are saying the Small Business Administration wasn't providing guidance on how to evaluate would-be borrowers. With the feds guaranteeing the loans, a bank may not care whether Struggling Business X can repay it. But the SBA might, and banks needed to know that.

That's why a number of banks have said they probably won't accept any loan applications Friday, which no doubt means some struggling small businesses and nonprofits won't be able to make payroll.

The agency issued an interim final rule providing answers to that question and many others Thursday night, giving banks little or no time to digest the instruction before they were supposed to start signing businesses up for loans. On the other hand, the guidance on underwriting was explicit: Any business that met the program's criteria in terms of size and payroll could have a loan, with no consideration for its ability to repay. No collateral is required, nor any personal guarantees. And banks can rely on the borrowers' certifications, rather than demanding other forms of proof, to "determine eligibility of the borrower and use of loan proceeds."

In short, these are the SBA's equivalent of the infamous no-document "liar loans" that fueled the housing bubble. Back then, it was reckless risk-taking based on the dubious assumption that property values would keep rising in perpetuity. Now, the point is simply to use banks and employers as a conduit to deliver money to workers while the economy is in free fall.

Because at the end of the day, the government isn't planning to get its money back. As long as at least 75% of a loan is spent retaining or rehiring employees and maintaining payroll, and the

**By JON HEALEY**

Los Angeles Times



*Jon Healey is the Los Angeles Times' deputy editorial page editor.*

rest on rent or mortgage and utilities, the SBA will forgive the principal. If you borrow money through this program, you'll owe only the interest payments, which are capped at 1% per year and deferred (along with any principal repayments owed, which could happen if a borrower lays off workers) for six months.

Here's hoping that banks digest the SBA's tardy guidance document quickly—it's only 31 pages, people!—and get the loans flowing forthwith. Independent contractors and self-employed people are scheduled to be able to apply starting April 10, so banks need to get cracking.

For more information on whether you're eligible, how much aid is available and how to apply, there's an online Q&A from the U.S. Chamber of Commerce. A number of banks also are providing information about the loan program on their websites, although in cases like this, the message Friday was the not-so-helpful "We aren't accepting applications for this program at this time. Check back for updates." Others, like Bank of America, appear to be accepting applications, but only from businesses that already have accounts there. Or in BoA's case, accounts and outstanding loans or credit card accounts.

Could it be that the program doesn't allow banks to profit enough from our misery?

## The rationing of human worth

It seems like a lot of NBA basketball players have tested positive for the coronavirus. I'm glad none of them have gotten deathly ill, and I'm particularly glad that no members of the Chicago Bulls, my hometown team, are said to be sick.

I figure this greatly increases the odds that I'll get the treatment I need to recover if I get sick and have to go to the hospital. I figure if a power forward and I show up in the emergency room at the same time and the doctors perceive that they can only treat one of us, I'm a goner.

I mean, he's a prime specimen. He might even have a shoe deal. And I'm just a sarcastic old man in a wheelchair. There's no way I can compete with him in terms of human worth.

This chilling fear that I might get written off as collateral damage and triaged out because I'm disabled isn't just some paranoid delusion brought on by too much isolation. It's for real.

On March 24, the Alabama Disabilities Advocacy Program filed a complaint with the Office for Civil Rights in the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services charging that the state's emergency plan for rationing ventilators could have "lethal consequences" for disabled folks.

According to the complaint, the plan orders hospitals to "not offer mechanical ventilation support" to people with "severe or

profound mental retardation, moderate to severe dementia, and severe traumatic brain injury." The complaint says the policy also applies to children.

The Center for Public Representation and other organizations also filed a complaint with the same office against the state of Washington. This complaint says the triage plan being developed there "gives priority to treating people who are younger and healthier and leaves those who are older and sicker—people with disabilities—to die." It argues that "Any plan that discriminates against people with disabilities in this way violates the legal rights of people with disabilities and is unlawful."

Similar complaints have been filed against Kansas and Tennessee.

So in response, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services on March 28 sent a bulletin to all states that says, "Persons with disabilities should not be denied medical care on the basis of stereotypes, assessments of quality of life, or judgments about the person's relative 'worth' based on the presence or absence of disabilities." The bulletin points out that this type of discrimination violates federal civil rights laws that protect disabled folks, such as Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973.

You know these rationing schemes must be a super serious problem when even the Trump administration takes some action

**By MIKE ERVIN**

Tribune News Service



*Mike Ervin is a Chicago-based writer and a disability rights activist with ADAPT ([www.adapt.org](http://www.adapt.org)). This column was produced for the Progressive Media Project, which is run by The Progressive magazine, and distributed by Tribune News Service.*

in response.






If there was ever a doubt that the lives of people with disabilities are routinely and resoundingly devalued by those who don't view them from the inside, here it is on full display, at its barest and most hideous.

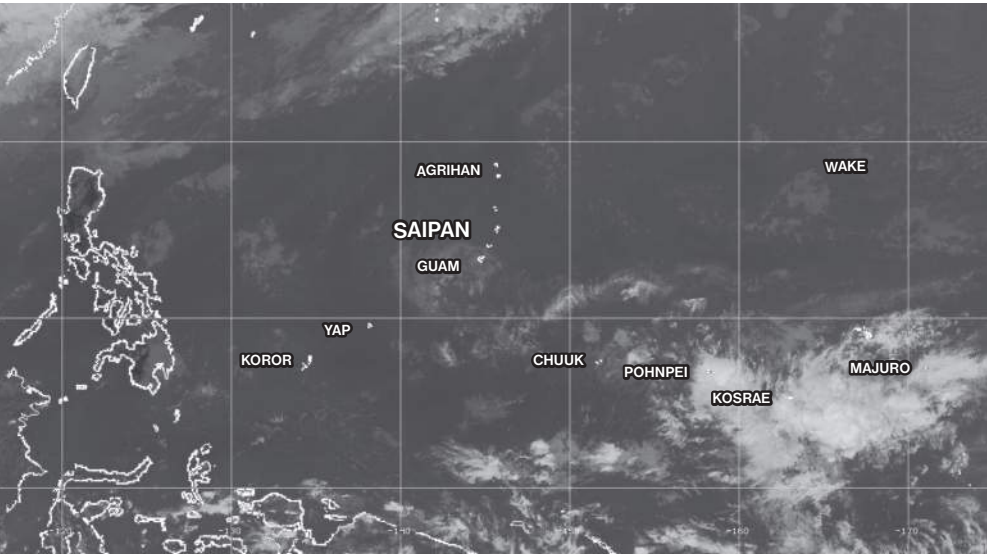
There's one thing I know for sure. If LeBron James gets sick and needs a ventilator, he'll damn sure get one. It won't matter what sort of protocols or lotteries or whatever are in place. He'll never be turned away and left for dead.

If that happened, imagine the outrage.



# The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN									
TODAY		TUESDAY		WEDNESDAY		THURSDAY		FRIDAY	
									
Partly sunny with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 15 mph.		Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 15 mph.		Partly cloudy with isolated showers.		Partly cloudy with isolated showers.		Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	
87°	76°	88°	76°	88°	76°	88°	76°	88°	76°
YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE									



**PICTURE TIME: 7:30 AM, SUNDAY, APRIL 5, 2020**  
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Skies are partly cloudy across Tinian and Saipan, but a trade-wind disturbance is moving across Guam and Rota with lots of clouds. Showers are doubtless present as well, but rain has yet to be reported on either island. But satellite imagery shows colder cloud tops east and southeast of Guam, indicating the likely presence of scattered showers.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: [www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/](http://www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/)

MICRONESIA			▲ ▼ °F
Guam and Rota	Partly Cloudy	86° / 76°	
Palau	Showers	85° / 78°	
Yap	Mostly Sunny	87° / 79°	
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	86° / 81°	
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	85° / 80°	
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	85° / 80°	
Majuro	Thunderstorms	84° / 79°	

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	6:08 AM	6:30 PM
Tuesday	6:08 AM	6:30 PM
Wednesday	6:07 AM	6:30 PM
Thursday	6:06 AM	6:30 PM
Friday	6:06 AM	6:30 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	-	4:35 AM	4:42 PM
Tuesday	-	5:23 AM	5:43 PM
Wednesday	-	6:10 AM	6:45 PM
Thursday	-	6:57 AM	7:46 PM
Friday	-	7:45 AM	8:48 PM

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AROUND THE GLOBE			▲ ▼ °F
Auckland	Partly Cloudy	68° / 61°	
Beijing	Partly Cloudy	72° / 43°	
Hong Kong	Mostly Cloudy	75° / 66°	
Honolulu	Showers	79° / 70°	
London	Showers	61° / 45°	
Los Angeles	Showers	59° / 51°	
Manila	Sunny	97° / 81°	
Melbourne	Mostly Cloudy	61° / 50°	
Miami	Mostly Sunny	80° / 73°	
New York	Sunny	64° / 48°	
Osaka	Mostly Sunny	63° / 46°	
Paris	Partly Cloudy	64° / 52°	
Busan	Partly Cloudy	64° / 48°	
Rome	Sunny	68° / 45°	
Salem	Mostly Cloudy	81° / 63°	
San Francisco	Showers	54° / 46°	
Seoul	Partly Cloudy	66° / 41°	
Tokyo	Mostly Sunny	64° / 48°	
Washington, DC	Partly Cloudy	74° / 54°	

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY			FEET
6:40 AM	HIGH TIDE	1.98	
12:35 PM	LOW TIDE	0.75	
6:08 PM	HIGH TIDE	1.96	
-	-	-	

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## NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- \*11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at [www.nmicrimestoppers.net](http://www.nmicrimestoppers.net)



COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS  
**OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR**

**GOVERNMENT RESOURCE LISTING** AS OF MARCH 27, 2020



COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS  
**OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR**

**GOVERNMENT RESOURCE LISTING** AS OF MARCH 27, 2020



**Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC)**  
Monday - Friday  
Customer Service & Customer Service  
8:00 AM - 1:00 PM  
Tel: (670) 664-4282  
Pay bills online at [www.cucgov.org](http://www.cucgov.org) or  
via phone by calling toll free 1-855-729-2282



**Office of the Attorney General  
Civil and Criminal Divisions**  
Monday - Friday  
8:00 AM - 12:00 PM  
Tel: (670) 237-7500/7600



**Department of Community and Cultural Affairs  
Nutrition Assistance Program (NAP)**  
Monday - Friday  
8:00 AM - 3:00 PM  
Tel: (670) 237-2801/2802



**Department of Finance  
Division of Revenue & Taxation**  
CASHIER ONLY  
Monday - Friday  
7:30 AM - 4:30 PM  
Tel: (670) 664-1000



**Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP)**  
Accepting Calls From Existing Customers Only  
Tel: (670) 287-1475



**Division of Youth Services (DYS) On-Call**  
Saipan: (670) 285-2780 / 285-2781 / 287-1773  
Tinian: (670) 287-3268  
Rota: (670) 287-2553



**Department of Public Works (DPW)  
Solid Waste Management Division  
Lower Base Transfer Station**  
OPEN ALL WEEK EXCEPT WEDNESDAY  
7:30 AM - 11:00 AM  
Tel: (670) 322-3745



**Chalan Kanoa Post Office**  
Monday - Friday  
7:30 AM - 4:30 PM  
Saturday  
7:30 AM - 11:30 AM




**Marpi Landfill**  
OPEN ALL WEEK EXCEPT WEDNESDAY  
7:30 AM - 3:00 PM  
Tel: (670) 322-2761



**Office of the Public Defender**  
Monday - Friday  
8:30 AM - 3:00 PM  
Tel: (670) 234-6503

**COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION**



**COVID-19 Health Tent**  
Patients arriving at CHCC with respiratory symptoms or fever will be screened outside of the main CHCC facility in a tent near the main hospital entrance on the upper level. Operating Monday - Friday (7:30 AM - 6:00 PM) and Saturday - Sunday (8:00 AM - 5:00 PM)

**Mental Health Care Line**  
For mental health support and coping skills. Please call (670) 285-1856/1857. Monday - Sunday (7:30 AM - 7:00 PM)

**Outpatient Clinics**  
Family Care Clinic: Monday - Friday (7:30 AM - 4:30 PM) and Saturday (8:00 AM - 5:00 PM by appointment only)

Women's Clinic: Monday - Friday (7:30 AM - 4:30 PM)

Children's Clinic: Monday - Friday (7:30 AM - 4:30 PM)

**Pharmacy**  
Monday - Friday: 8:00 AM - 6:00 PM  
Saturday, Sunday and Holidays: 8:00 AM - 5:00 PM  
Patients can call ahead to refill prescriptions. Have your prescription number ready. Tel: (670) 236-8798

**Immunization Clinic**  
For child vaccinations, please visit the CHCC Children's Clinic. For adult vaccinations, please visit CHCC Family's Care Clinic

**Tuberculosis/Hansen's Prevention Program**  
Patients of these programs will be contacted by program staff for more information.

**HIV/STD Prevention Program**  
Patients of these programs will be contacted by program staff for more information.

**Breast and Cervical Cancer Screening Program and Nicotine Cessation Programs are temporarily unavailable.**

**Cafeteria**  
The cafeteria has adjusted their hours to Monday - Friday 7:00 AM - 1:00 PM. We are limiting the number of visitors in the cafeteria to 10 people at one time.

**Dental Clinic**  
The CHCC's Dental Clinic is currently open for dental emergencies only. Dental emergencies include: heavy bleeding from the mouth, tooth trauma, swelling or infection, and severe toothaches (pain prevents you from eating or sleeping and is does not respond to over the counter pain medication).

**Visitors to CHCC**  
All visitors to the CHCC will be screened, and their temperature taken. Non-patients with a fever will not be allowed in the facility. No guests are allowed in the CHCC hospital. Patients who are admitted to the hospital will be limited to one caretaker at a time. Outpatient visits to the clinics are limited to the patient and a maximum of one other person. For example, if a child has an appointment in the Children's Clinic, only one parent or guardian may accompany them. Parents with multiple children should leave other children with a caretaker. Please plan accordingly.

**Dialysis**  
Temporarily not allowing visitors and caregivers to sit with patients on dialysis during treatment. Patients on dialysis, please call the CHCC Dialysis Center ahead of time at (670) 236-8303/4 if you are experiencing a new cough, fever, shortness of breath, or any other symptoms that are unusual for you.

**Funerals**  
If you plan to visit the CHCC chapel for a funeral, you will be asked to limit the number of visitors in the chapel at one time. This is done to increase the physical space between individuals so we can avoid the spread of illness and protect the safety of our health care facility. Your cooperation is highly appreciated.

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**COVID-19 HOTLINE TEL: (670) 285-1352 /1542/1672/1845**  
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# Business

## DOCOMO revitalizes Minachom Atdao pavilion

DOCOMO PACIFIC, regional leader in innovation, telecommunications and entertainment, has revitalized the Minachom Atdao pavilion, Saipan's largest and most utilized public pavilion.

The company truly believes that corporate responsibility extends beyond the vital telecommunication products and services it offers. Amid the global health crisis, the company's commitment to the community remains.

Being that the Minachom Atdao pavilion a beautiful space for people to gather in,

from corporate functions like the Saipan Chamber of Commerce Corporate Challenge to island events extended to guest abroad like the Tagaman Triathlon, DOCOMO PACIFIC did not hesitate when the opportunity to contribute resources was presented.

From community events to family celebrations and fundraisers, the company's Better Together promise serves as the foundation for it all. While gatherings are temporarily prohibited to stop the spread of COVID-19, one day, the

sun will set on the pandemic and the people of the CNMI will be able to happily reunite in this beautiful space again. DOCOMO PACIFIC's resources were dedicated to ensure that the space is safe and ready for that day.

"We will always remain committed to our community that we serve, as they have remained committed to us. Our islands are small, but our hearts are big and when we come together, we can make a big difference in our community. In these most difficult times, let this work of progress

encourage us all that brighter days are to come and that we are not in this alone," said DOCOMO PACIFIC general manager Pauline Johnson.

The month-long revitalization and repair of the Minachom Atdao consisted of the removal and scrapping of damaged paint job, a totally new applied coat of paint throughout the entire structure, counter re-tiling, restoration and repouring of all cracks and planters box and an added recycling

garbage disposal in partnership with the Micronesian Island Nature Alliance.

In times of uncertainty, DOCOMO PACIFIC remains committed to the people it serves and will continue to find ways to promote the beautiful islands and its people.

DOCOMO PACIFIC is a wholly owned subsidiary of NTT DOCOMO, Japan's leading mobile operator. Headquartered in Tamuning, Guam, DOCOMO PACIFIC

is the largest provider of personal, residential, enterprise connectivity and entertainment services in Guam and the Northern Mariana Islands. As the four-time winner of Pika's Best of Guam and three-time winner of Best of The Pacific, DOCOMO PACIFIC is dedicated to bringing you and your family closer to the things that matter most. Get to know more about what makes us "Better Together" at [www.docomopacific.com](http://www.docomopacific.com). (PR)



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The Minachom Atdao pavilion was recently revitalized by DOCOMO PACIFIC.

## State unemployment systems tested by surge of applicants

By SARAH SKIDMORE SELL  
AP PERSONAL FINANCE WRITER

Americans are seeking unemployment benefits at unprecedented levels due to the coronavirus, but many are finding more frustration than relief.

State websites and phone lines across the country have been overwhelmed with applicants — causing sites to crash, phone lines to ring busy and much-needed payments to be delayed. While many states are doing their best to respond — adding staff, updating technology and streamlining the process — it's tough to keep up with the pace of demand.

About 10 million people applied for unemployment benefits in the two weeks ended March 27.

"There's no hospital system in the world that's designed to handle what we're dealing with," Ohio Lt. Gov. Jon Husted told reporters. "Our unemployment compensation system's the same way."

Ohio handled twice as many claims in the past two weeks than it had over the past two years. The state has increased its online capacity for processing claims 20 times, added hundreds of workers, yet users might still encounter delays.

New York's Department of Labor said its phone system recorded more than 8.2 million calls last week, compared with 50,000 in a typical week. Its online filing system received 3.4 million visits during that time, compared to the usual 350,000. The site has crashed several times in recent weeks under the burden.

To handle the influx, New York has added 20 servers, hundreds of staff and expanded its hours of operations. It's also trying to reduce the surge — as are Colorado, Kentucky and Michigan — by asking people to file on different days based on the first let-

ter of their last name.

"It is not working as smoothly as I would like to see it," Governor Andrew Cuomo said. "It's compounding people's stress."

It's a problem playing out across the nation.

"Financially stressed Americans should not have to spend hours on the phone waiting for someone to process their application or answer their questions," Senators Chuck Schumer, Ron Wyden and Bernie Sanders said in a letter Monday to the U.S. Department of Labor.

They urged Secretary Eugene Scalia to ensure states get funding quickly for administrative support that they've been granted under recent legislation. The Department of Labor did not comment in response.

Congress has passed a massive relief package that expanded who is eligible for unemployment benefits — adding gig, contract and other part time workers who wouldn't normally qualify. Benefits are open to others who've been impacted, such as workers who were quarantined, left work due to risk of exposure or to care for a family member.

It's welcome aid for suffering Americans, but it adds to the volume and confusion for administering benefits.

New Mexico's Workforce Solutions Department said that is was deluged with more than a half-million calls in one day — in a state of 2 million residents — as the government began expanded eligibility guidelines, but it was too soon at that time for the state to process those claims.

The crush on the system is leaving some Americans in need frustrated and empty handed for now.

Duane Shepherd, 53, tried to file for unemployment for

this week after getting laid off from his oil-and-gas servicing job in rural Vernal, Utah. He gave up after the online system barred him from backing up to fix a minor error. The online-chat function was unavailable and phone calls were rejected because of high volume. He considered visiting a local office in person, but heard he'd be routed back to the phone system. Shepherd plans to try to file again, and hopes to live on his small savings as he looks for work.

"The system is broken, it's absolutely broken. I don't know how people aren't climbing the walls with frustration," he said.

Those filing for unemployment are being encouraged to keep at it and be patient.

It takes time to process an application, typically two to three weeks, said Michele Evermore, a senior policy analyst at the National Employment Law Project. But benefits are retroactive — meaning people will be reimbursed for the full period of unemployment, not just from when their claim is approved.

"The unemployment lines (although virtual) now are like the lines for toilet paper have been," Evermore said. "People are just going to have to keep trying for a while."

The eligibility and process varies by state so workers should check the local rules. In general though, applicants should try to file online unless they must call. And consider trying websites at off-hours when traffic is lower.

Be prepared with contact information for all their employers for the past 18 months, as well as proof of income. Double-check all your information as even minor errors can slow a claim.

Keep track of your efforts and if you are denied, you can appeal.

## FHB accepting customer SBA paycheck protection applications online

**MAITE, GUAM**—First Hawaiian Bank today announced it will accept customer SBA Small Business Paycheck Protection Program applications online at [sba.fhb.com](http://sba.fhb.com) through June 30, 2020; interested First Hawaiian Bank business customers can find out more information about the program and apply through the website.

The SBA Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) authorizes up to \$349 billion in forgivable loans to small businesses to pay their employees during the COVID-19 crisis. This relief program, which is being implemented by the U.S. Small Business Administration with support from the U.S. Department of the Treasury, provides small businesses with a one-time, "fully forgivable loan" up to \$10 million to cover up to eight weeks of payroll expenses, including benefits, and can also be used to make mortgage, lease and utility payments.

The SBA will begin accepting applications starting April 3, 2020 for small businesses and sole proprietors and starting the following Friday, April 10, 2020 for independent contractors and self-employed

individuals. Applicants can visit [sba.fhb.com](http://sba.fhb.com) to submit the required information and First Hawaiian Bank will process their application with the SBA. The deadline to apply is June 30th, 2020.

Online applicants will need to gather and provide the following additional documentation:

- IRS Form 941 Employers Quarterly Tax returns for 2019, IRS Form 1099 MISC: 2019 and other payroll hat verify the number of full-time equivalent employees on payroll, the dollar amounts of payroll costs, covered mortgage interest payments, covered rent payments and covered utilities for the eight weeks after receiving the loan.

- Important Loan Information (subject to change depending on further SBA guidance)

- Funds are provided in the form of bank loans that will be fully forgiven when used for payroll costs, interest on mortgages, rent and utilities.

- ❖ Payroll costs are capped at \$100,000 on an annualized basis for each employee.

- ❖ It is anticipated that 75% of the forgiven amount must be used for payroll.

- Loan payments will be deferred for six months; interest will then accrue at 0.5%.

- No collateral or personal guarantees are required.

- Neither government nor lenders will charge small businesses any fees.

- Borrowers must keep employees on the payroll — or rehire quickly to be eligible for loan forgiveness.

- ❖ Forgiveness is based on maintaining or quickly rehiring employees and maintaining salary levels.

- ❖ Forgiveness will be reduced if full-time head count declines, or if salaries and wages decrease.

- Businesses with 500 or fewer employees are eligible—including nonprofits, veterans' organizations, tribal concerns, self-employed individuals, sole proprietorships and independent contractors.

- ❖ Businesses in certain industries are eligible even if they have more than 500 employees.

For additional information from the U.S. Treasury about the Paycheck Protection Program, please visit <https://home.treasury.gov/system/files/136/PPP-Fact-Sheet.pdf>. (PR)



# Nation

## Trump says 'toughest' weeks ahead as coronavirus spreads

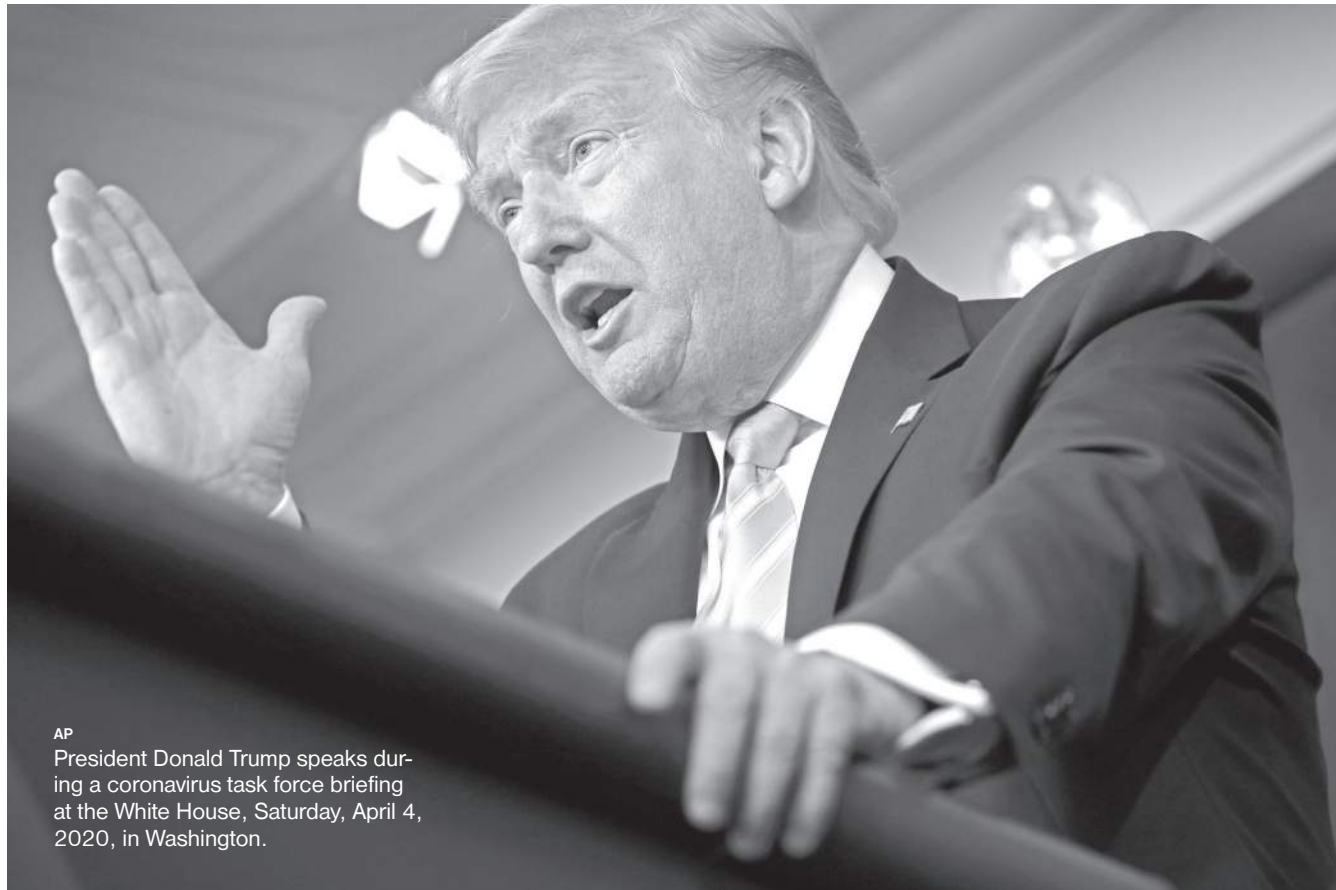
WASHINGTON (AP)—President Donald Trump warned Saturday that the country could be headed into its “toughest” weeks yet as the coronavirus death toll mounts, but at the same time he expressed growing impatience with social distancing guidelines and said he’s eager to get the country reopened and its stalled economy back on track.

“There will be a lot of death, unfortunately,” Trump said in a somber start to his daily briefing on the pandemic. “There will be death.”

Joining Trump were Vice President Mike Pence, virus task force coordinator Dr. Deborah Birx, and Dr. Anthony Fauci, the U.S. government’s foremost infection disease expert. Each stood far apart from one another on the small stage.

Trump added a twist on his familiar push for a drug that hasn’t been clearly shown to work to stop the virus—he said he may start taking it as a preventative measure after consulting with his doctor, even though there’s no evidence to show it works for that, either.

The president initially had suggested the country could reopen by Easter but pulled back seeing projections of a staggering death toll even if restrictive measures remain in place. But just days af-



AP  
President Donald Trump speaks during a coronavirus task force briefing at the White House, Saturday, April 4, 2020, in Washington.

ter extending tough national guidelines through the end of April, staring down historic levels of unemployment and economic standstill, he was talking about reopening as soon as possible, and speaking Saturday with leaders of professional sports leagues about filling arenas again.

“This country was not designed to be closed,” he said. “The cure cannot be worse than the problem.”

The number of people infected in the U.S. has exceeded 300,000, with the death toll climbing past 8,100; more than 3,500 of those deaths are in the state of New York. For most people, the virus causes mild or moderate symptoms, such as fever and cough that clear up in two to three weeks. For some, especially older adults and people with existing health problems, it can cause more severe illness, in-

cluding pneumonia, and death.

Much of the country is under orders to stay home, including professional sports leagues that were among the first to clamp down in the pandemic. Trump spoke by phone with top leaders including Roger Goodell of the National Football League and the NBA’s Adam Silver, telling them he hoped to get people back in seats as soon as possible.

“I want fans back in the arenas,” he said. “Whenever we’re ready, as soon as we can.”

The virus has decimated the sports world with the National

Basketball Association and the National Hockey League suspending their seasons indefinitely and Major League Baseball postponing the start of its season. The NCAA basketball tournament was also canceled; so were college spring sports.

A person with knowledge of the call said some of the commissioners weren’t quite as optimistic as Trump because of the concerns raised by public health officials but appreciated the president’s desire to give people hope and fans a reason to be optimistic. The person requested anonymity to discuss the private call.

California’s Gov. Gavin Newsom, who has three NFL teams in his state, was asked if he thought the NFL season would start on time in September. “I’m not anticipating that happening in this state,” he said.

Hard-hit states were seeing cases rise. Trump suggested that some states were asking for more medical supplies than they really needed. He said the goal was to stay several days ahead of critical medical needs in each state.

## At funerals in virus outbreak, mourning is from a distance

LEXINGTON, S.C. (AP)—No one stands in line to embrace the widow and share memories of her husband of 50 years. No rows of family and friends file toward the flag-draped coffin to pay their last respects. No symphony of sniffles is heard across the room as the minister gives a final prayer.

Instead, a handful of people are scattered across one chapel row as if they’re strangers, not blood. White roses are pinned to empty chairs, representing those who couldn’t be there. An iPad on a tripod livestreams the service for people stuck at home across state lines.

“This is going to be a different experience for all of us,” the minister tells the half-dozen people gathered at a South Carolina funeral for J. Robert Coleman, an Army veteran, husband to Gloria, father to three sons and grandfather to three children. “But one thing that will be common is that as we conduct this service today, we’re going to open with a prayer.”

Unspoken was the reason this funeral, and untold others across the world, is

different: The coronavirus outbreak, stay-at-home orders and the rules of social distancing are dramatically altering the way families and communities mourn the passing of loved ones.

“It’s hard enough to lose a loved one, but then to have the traditions that usually bring comfort at a time like this seemingly not available just kind of compounds the grief that families feel,” said Justin Baxley, of Woodridge Memorial Park & Funeral Home.

Like most funeral homes, Woodridge is limiting the number of people allowed for services. Many families find it hard to choose which loved ones will be invited to the in-person gathering and which will be relegated to watch via livestream, if at all.

But Coleman’s family said in their case, travel restrictions due to the virus and the nature of their small, close-knit family made following the fewer-than-10-people mandate simple. John Coleman said those who mattered most to his dad were there - his wife, Gloria, and his sons. The only one missing was his beloved dog, Bandit.

## Trump suggests firing watchdog was payback for impeachment

WASHINGTON (AP)—President Donald Trump suggested on Saturday that he fired the inspector general for the intelligence community in retaliation for impeachment, saying the official was wrong to provide an anonymous whistleblower complaint to Congress as the law requires.

Trump called Michael Atkinson a “disgrace” after informing Congress late Friday night that he intended to fire him. In letters to the House and Senate intelligence committees, Trump wrote that he had lost confidence in Atkinson but gave little detail.

A day later, Trump was more blunt, telling reporters at the White House: “I thought he did a terrible job, absolutely terrible.” The president added: “He took a fake report and he took it to Congress with an emergency, OK? Not a big Trump fan, that I can tell you.”

The whistleblower report was not fake, but a detailed complaint written by an anonymous intelligence official who described Trump’s pres-

sure on Ukraine to investigate Democrat Joe Biden and his son. Atkinson determined the complaint was urgent and credible and therefore was required by law to disclose it to Congress, but he was overruled for weeks by the acting director of national intelligence, Joseph Maguire.

After a firestorm sparked by media reports of the complaint, it was turned over and made public. A congressional inquiry led to Trump’s impeachment by the House in December. The GOP-led Senate acquitted Trump in February.

On Saturday, Trump questioned why Atkinson didn’t speak to him about the complaint, though Atkinson’s role is to provide independent oversight.

“Never came in to see me, never requested to see me,” Trump said. He added: “That man is a disgrace to IGs.”

Atkinson’s removal is part of a larger shakeup of the intelligence community under Trump, who has always viewed intelligence professionals with skepticism. His

ouster came under immediate fire from Democrats and a handful of Republicans.

Sen. Chuck Grassley, the Iowa Republican who leads the Finance Committee, said that Congress has been “crystal clear” that written reasons must be given when inspectors general are removed for a lack of confidence.

“More details are needed from the administration,” Grassley said.

Maine Sen. Susan Collins, a GOP member of the Senate Intelligence Committee, said she didn’t find Trump’s reasoning in his Friday letter to be persuasive, and said Atkinson’s removal “was not warranted.” Senate Intelligence Committee Chairman Richard Burr, R-N.C., said an inspector general “must be allowed to conduct his or her work independent of internal or external pressure.”

Trump’s criticism Saturday came after Atkinson’s peers had rushed to his defense. Michael Horowitz, the inspector general at the Justice Department, said Atkinson was known for his “integrity,

professionalism, and commitment to the rule of law and independent oversight.” He said that included Atkinson’s actions in handling the Ukraine whistleblower complaint.

Asked during his daily coronavirus briefing about firing Atkinson, Trump returned to his attacks on the Democratic-led impeachment investigation and trial and his defense that his phone call with Ukraine’s president was “perfect” but had been inaccurately described in the whistleblower’s account. In fact, the partial transcript later released by the president largely supported the whistleblower’s account.

Atkinson is at least the seventh intelligence official to be fired, ousted or moved aside since last summer. In his letters to the intelligence committees informing them of the firing, which were obtained by The Associated Press, Trump said that it is “vital” that he has confidence in the appointees serving as inspectors general, and “that is no longer the case with regard to this inspector general.”



# Asia

## China honors virus victims with 3 minutes of reflection

**WUHAN, China** (AP)—With air raid sirens wailing and flags at half-staff, China held a three-minute nationwide moment of reflection on Saturday to honor those who have died in the coronavirus outbreak, especially “martyrs” who fell while fighting what has become a global pandemic.

Commemorations took place at 10 a.m. in all major cities, but were particularly poignant in Wuhan, the industrial city where the virus was first detected in December.

Wuhan was placed under complete lockdown on Jan. 23 in an effort to stem the spread of the virus and has been lauded as a “heroic city” by the nation’s communist leadership for the sacrifices made by its 11 million citizens.

People have gradually been allowed to travel in and out of Wuhan under strict conditions. The quarantine in the city is to be formally lifted on Wednesday.

In Beijing, President Xi Jinping led other top officials, all dressed in black suits with white carnations, as they bowed before a flag at half-staff in the leadership compound of Zhongnanhai.

On Saturday, China reported one new confirmed case in Wuhan and 18 among people



People hold Chinese flags as they gather outside of a park where an official memorial was held for victims of coronavirus in Wuhan in central China’s Hubei Province, Saturday, April 4, 2020.

arriving from abroad, along with four new deaths, all in Wuhan. China now has recorded a total of 81,639 cases and 3,326 deaths, although those figures are generally considered to be understated because of a lack of testing and a reluctance to report the scale of the original outbreak.

China’s slow, cautious emergence from the global pandemic comes as the U.S. is struggling to deal with an outbreak that has taken more than 1,860 lives in New York City alone. Hard-hit European nations Italy, Spain and France are also seeing rising numbers of cases and deaths, although strict social distancing mea-

sures such as those adopted by China appear to be having an effect.

The State Council, China’s Cabinet, ordered that national flags be flown at half-staff around the country and at Chinese embassies and consulates abroad, and the suspension of all public recreational activities.

The horns of automobiles, trains and ships joined in what China’s official Xinhua News Agency called a “wail in grief” for three minutes. China has held such moments of silence in the past, often to mark World War II-era atrocities by Japan, but rarely on a national scale.

## Mosques stay open in Pakistan even as virus death toll rises

**ISLAMABAD** (AP)—Mosques were allowed to remain open in Pakistan on Friday, when Muslims gather for weekly prayers, even as the coronavirus pandemic spread and much of the country had shut down.

Prime Minister Imran Khan is relying on restricting the size of congregations attending mosques and advice to stay at home from religious groups like the country’s Islamic Ideology Council.

However, some provinces have issued their own lockdown orders to prevent Muslims from gathering for Friday prayers. In southern Sindh province, a complete lockdown is being enforced from noon until 3 p.m., the time when the faithful gather for prayers. Anyone found on the streets will be arrested, according to the provincial local government minister in a statement.

In eastern Punjab province, where 60% of Pakistan’s 220 million people live, checkpoints have been set up in major cities stopping people from congregating.

Still, mosques remain open

in Pakistan, even as they have been shut down across much of the Middle East and elsewhere. The Middle East has confirmed over 85,000 cases of the virus and over 3,700 deaths, most of them in Iran.

Iran state TV reported Friday that the virus killed another 134 people, pushing the country’s death toll to nearly 3,300 amid more than 53,000 confirmed cases. Iran’s parliament speaker, Ali Larijani, is among those who have contracted the disease.

Pakistan, with 2,450 confirmed cases and 36 deaths, has been sharply criticized for moving too slow to curb large gatherings, including a gathering of tens of thousands of Muslims from several Islamic countries in March. The gathering of Tableeghi Jamaat missionaries is blamed for several outbreaks of the new virus elsewhere in the world. The first confirmed cases that emerged in Gaza were traced to the gathering.

Entire neighborhoods, including outside the capital of Islamabad, have been shut down because clerics who had

attended the gathering tested positive for the virus.

Despite this, some religious leaders in Pakistan still urge the faithful to defy restrictions and gather at mosques.

Mufti Muneeb-ur-Rehman, head of a committee tasked with spotting the new moon in Pakistan marking the beginning of holy months such as Ramadan, went on television telling people their faith would protect them and they should attend the mosque.

However, Khan on Friday urged Pakistanis to follow social distancing guidelines and warned against assuming the virus won’t cause large-scale deaths in the country or believing that Pakistanis were somehow immune to the disease. The prime minister also said he would not consider possible easing of restrictions on movement before April 14.

For most people, the virus causes mild or moderate symptoms, such as fever and cough. But for others, especially older adults and people with existing health problems, it can cause severe symptoms like pneumonia that can be fatal.

# World

## HIDDEN SUFFERING OF CORONAVIRUS:

## Stigma, blaming, shaming

**BOGOTA, Colombia** (AP)—No one should have known Bella Lamilla’s name.

But within hours of her diagnosis as Ecuador’s coronavirus “patient zero,” it was circulating on social media along with photos showing the retired schoolteacher unconscious and intubated in a hospital bed. Her large, close-knit family watched in horror as a dual tragedy began to unfold: While Lamilla fought for her life in intensive care, strangers began tearing apart her reputation online.

“Knowing she had it, the old lady didn’t care and went all around,” one person commented on Facebook.

“It was ugly,” said Pedro Valenzuela, 22, Lamilla’s great-nephew. “It hurt a lot.”

The spreading global pandemic has tested the competing interests of public health and privacy, with thousands of individuals and families experiencing both physical illness and the less-discussed stigma that can come with it. While there are many stories about good deeds and people coming together, the coronavirus is also bringing out another, darker side of some people: Fear, anger, resentment and shaming.

## UN to decide in a month on holding world leaders’ meeting

**UNITED NATIONS** (AP)—The president of the U.N. General Assembly says the 193-member world body will take a decision in the coming month on whether to delay the annual gathering of world leaders in New York in late September because of the coronavirus pandemic.

Tijjani Muhammad-Bande said in an interview with The Associated Press that “this is not something that has so far been an issue of serious consultation,” and for now the calendar of events remains. It calls for the General Debate — the official name of the high-level meeting — to open on Sept. 22, with a kickoff event for world leaders the previous day to commemorate the 75th anniversary of the United Nations.

The former Nigerian ambassador said “in the coming month we’ll take a decision through the normal means,” which means consulting all U.N. member states.

The United Nations has canceled or postponed numerous upcoming events including the five-year review of the Nuclear Non-

ment and shaming. In India, doctors have reported being evicted by landlords worried they’ll spread coronavirus to other tenants. In the town of St. Michel in Haiti, people stoned an orphanage after a Belgian volunteer was diagnosed. In Indonesia, an early coronavirus patient was subjected to cruel innuendo suggesting she contracted it through sex work.

Psychologists say it harkens to an age-old instinct to protect oneself and relatives from catching a potentially fatal disease — and a belief, however unfounded, that those who get it bear some responsibility.

“Illness is one of the fundamental fears humans have been dealing with their entire evolution,” said Jeff Sherman, a psychology professor at the University of California, Davis. “It’s not really surprising they would be hostile toward someone they believe is responsible for bringing illness into their community.”

Bella Lamilla followed a daughter to Spain three years ago to enjoy retirement alongside three grandchildren in a sleepy Madrid suburb. At least once a year, she flew

back to Ecuador, where a flock of relatives would greet her at the airport.

On Feb. 14 she made the 12-hour flight to Ecuador and sailed through immigration, no questions asked, even though she’d started feeling feverish.

Over the next week, relatives took her to two different local doctors, who dismissed her ailments as side effects of a urinary infection or a possible muscular problem, and finally to a private clinic in the city of Guayaquil. Struggling to breathe, Lamilla was put on a ventilator.

After then-Health Minister Catalina Andramuño announced Ecuador’s first case in a live news conference, the rumors and fury almost immediately began swirling on social media.

A medical document with Lamilla’s name surfaced. So did photos and videos showing the petite woman with short blonde hair in a hospital bed. A map with addresses of the family’s homes made the rounds. Facebook users dredged up old photographs of the family at a soccer game to imply they’d exposed thousands.

proliferation Treaty that had been scheduled to start in late April, and two major events in Mexico City in May and Paris in July to commemorate the 25th anniversary of the Beijing women’s conference, which adopted a 150-page roadmap to achieve gender equality.

Muhammad-Bande announced the postponement Friday of several meetings of the General Assembly scheduled in the next two months including the commemoration of the 75th anniversary of the end of World War II on May 6.

“The current situation might have pushed us to postpone events celebrating the 75th anniversary (of World War II) but it illustrates, maybe more than anything else, the absolute need for the U.N. to guide the global efforts and provide much needed support to defeat our common threat,” he said.

“The U.N., since its creation, has given a sense of hope to many people in very difficult situations,” Muhammad-Bande said. “The very existence of this organization has the same effect

now during a time in which a lot of people go through fear and anxiety.”

He said “everything is secondary to COVID right now.”

But Muhammad-Bande stressed that other issues are still being discussed in the assembly’s committees, which are meeting by video conference.

What has emerged so far from the pandemic, he said, “is greater realization of how interconnected we all are ... and also in my view I can see better relations among nations.”

Muhammad-Bande pointed to the authority of the U.N. World Health Organization, saying people everywhere want to hear what it has to say about COVID-19.

He said it must be “a moral imperative” to help poorer countries tackle the virus, and urged governments to give generously to the U.N. appeal.

“We certainly need to do much more, and I am hopeful that we’ll get what is needed while looking at better ways of guaranteeing social nets,” the General Assembly president said.

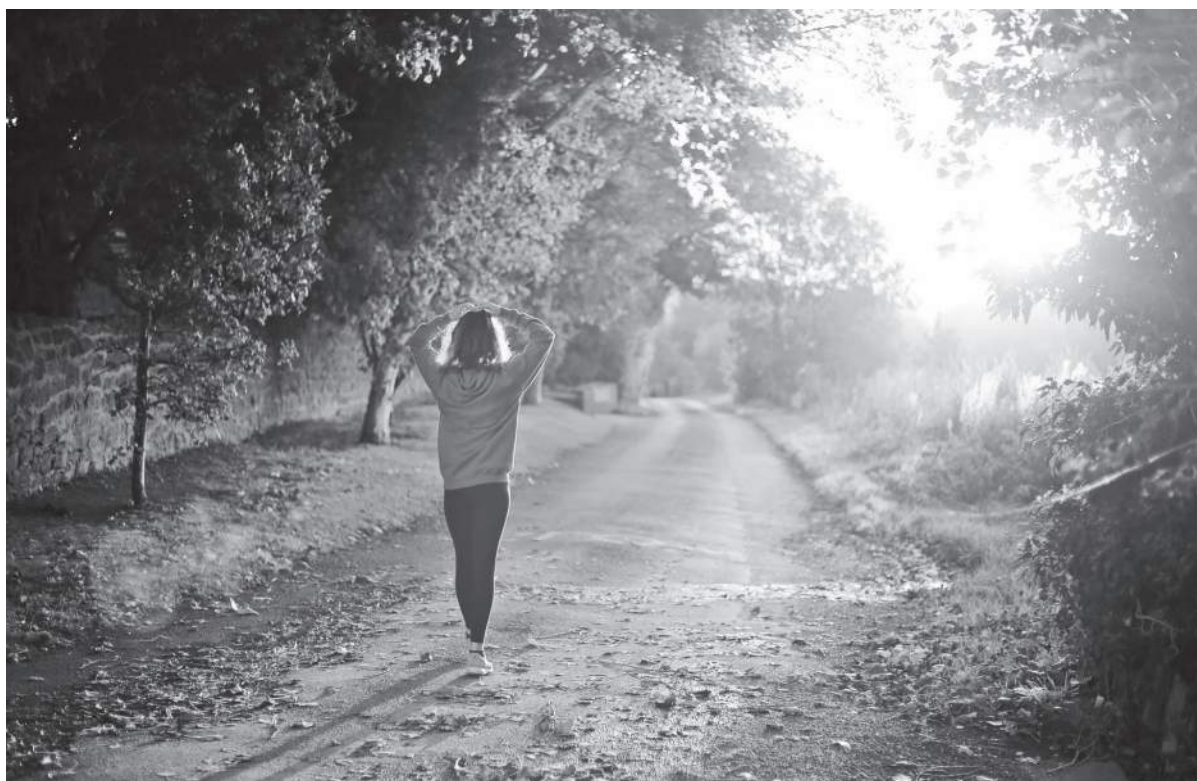


# Health & Wellness

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## Eating, moving and meditating are keys to staying healthy

**D**r. Elizabeth Cozine, a Mayo Clinic family medicine physician, offers these tips for staying healthy during the COVID-19 pandemic:

### EXERCISE

Gyms may be closed, but there are still plenty of options to get in a good workout at home. “If you have any sort of exercise equipment that’s been gathering dust in the corner, dust it off. Hop on a treadmill, bike, whatever. Some-

thing really cool that’s going on right now as part of this response to social distancing is that many app-based programs that are typically fee-for-use are offering free trials right now—for about 90 days—so try something out.”

Another good option for exercise is getting outside and taking a walk.

“You do need to be distanced from your friends and family, which is hard, but certainly feel free to take your kids, your spouse out for a walk. If you’re going to meet a friend for a walk—maybe a neighbor—keep

yourself 6 feet apart. But get outside.”

Sleep During times of uncertainty and stress, sleep is crucial to allow the body to rest and heal. Dr. Cozine says it’s important to practice good sleep hygiene:

“Trying to go to bed at the same time every night, maybe sleeping in a little bit later than you normally would because you’re not rushing to get to the office. And see if you can try to get somewhere between seven and nine hours of sleep, which is what most adults need, and make that a regular part of your day.”

### MEDITATION

One way to help promote sleep is through meditation. Dr. Cozine says there’s a lot of great evidence to suggest that meditation can improve sleep and help you better cope with stress and anxiety.

“I’ve found that it helps me turn off those hamster wheels of thoughts that are rolling in my brain, and it also helps me to get ready for the next step. So I’m not talking about sitting Zen, cross-legged for three hours thinking about—I don’t know—like a desert or something. I’m talking about maybe five minutes where you just reset. You could do it at your desk. Go somewhere quietly.”



### DIET

Maintaining a healthy diet is always important, but even more so during the COVID-19 pandemic. With more time on your hands and fewer options to dine out, Dr. Cozine says this could be a good time to try some dietary changes to make a difference in your overall health. However, Dr. Cozine doesn’t recommend making any huge changes to your diet during this time of stress.

“You might think about doing some things like eating more whole foods, thinking about fewer meat (dishes), reducing your processed foods, and thinking about moving toward eating as many plants as you can.” (*Mayo Clinic News Network*)



Check the CDC website for additional updates on COVID-19. For more information and all your COVID-19 coverage, go to the Mayo Clinic News Network and [mayoclinic.org](http://mayoclinic.org).

## Social distancing can strain mental health. Here’s how you can protect yourself

By BETHANY AO  
THE PHILADELPHIA INQUIRER

In order to avoid overwhelming the U.S. health care system by spreading the coronavirus to vulnerable groups, public officials around the country have asked people to practice social distancing—avoiding large crowds and close contact with others.

President Donald Trump has called for Americans to avoid gatherings of more than 10 people, and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has recommended that no events with 50 people or more take place for the next eight weeks. In the region, Pennsylvania Gov. Tom Wolf and New Jersey Gov. Phil Murphy ordered all non-essential businesses closed, including places like movie theaters and malls, and limiting restaurants and bars to take-out and delivery only.

“Right now, it’s OK to not be OK,” said Val Arkoosh, chair of the Montgomery County board of commissioners, during a news conference earlier this week. “This is a very unusual and unprecedented situation

that we find ourselves in, and it’s changing every single day, and it’s perfectly normal to feel unsettled.”

Social distancing is not easy for many to cope with, but it can be particularly difficult for people already struggling with mental health issues, according to health experts. Research from the 2002 SARS pandemic—a different kind of coronavirus—showed that quarantine can result in considerable psychological stress in the form of depressive symptoms and PTSD. Other research has shown that chronic social isolation increases the risk of mortality by 29%.

But there are ways for people to mitigate the stress through focusing on things they like to do and establishing a sense of control over their environments and schedules, therapists say.

“What makes people feel safe and secure are things like having a place to live, get food for themselves and their families, and being able to go outside and socialize with people,” said Angelique Porter, a social worker and psychotherapist at a

community behavioral health center in University City. “This has never happened at this scale before, so there’s a lot of fear and uncertainty. And that sense of being cut off from other people can increase your depression, anxiety and stress levels.”

Thea Gallagher, director of the outpatient clinic at the Center for the Treatment and Study of Anxiety in the Perelman School of Medicine at the University of Pennsylvania, said that previous research has shown that for people with depression, their mental state gets worse during self-isolation because it’s easier for them to believe negative self-talk. With anxiety, she said, that isolation can lead to taking in too much stressful information at once because there are no external distractions.

“People get bombarded with really scary information, and the more that that happens, the more people feel anxiety and fear,” said Gallagher, also an assistant professor at Penn. “Focusing on other things is very hard right now.”

To protect mental health while self-quarantining, Porter has encour-

aged clients to get as much physical exercise of any kind as possible, like taking quiet walks around their block or doing online workouts with YouTube videos. She also pointed to meditation and mindfulness activities offered by apps as a way to lower stress.

“You can also distract yourself with an art activity, like coloring, painting, drawing, listening to music, or playing music if you play,” Porter said. “Those distractions have been proven through research to reduce stress, which in turn can boost your immune system.”

Gallagher encouraged people to create some level of routine by writing down what they’re going to do on an hourly block or picking up a project that will make them feel better. That way, people will have something to look forward to, she said.

“If you approach this like, ‘What are some things I can do to help myself feel a sense of control?’ it helps you lean into the fact that this is happening,” Gallagher said. “What’s happening is a big change for a lot of people that came quickly. We thrive

in our routines, and we like knowing what’s coming next and having a sense of how our day looks.”

She also encouraged people to keep up their social connections remotely through FaceTime or text messaging, and avoid “mindless scrolling through social media,” which can cause increased panic and anxiety. Gallagher said that if people find themselves doing that, they should try to limit the amount of time they spend on those sites. And if people notice that information about the virus on the news is becoming repetitive, they should take a break and do something else.

“If you know one of your friends is vulnerable to mental health stuff, reach out to them,” she said. “Call them, set up FaceTimes, watch Netflix with them. Call a friend you’ve wanted to talk to but haven’t in a while, and share positive and encouraging tips, or what has worked for you.”

This applies to people who may struggle with reaching out for support due to mental health issues, said Gallagher.



# Life & Style

## Brooke Baldwin becomes 2nd CNN on-air person diagnosed

**NEW YORK** (AP)—CNN news anchor Brooke Baldwin has tested positive for the coronavirus, the second on-air personality at the news network to come down with the disease.



**Baldwin**

cal experts have said to do.

"Still—it got me," she said.

CNN prime-time host Chris Cuomo also has COVID-19, and twice this week did shows remotely from the basement

of his home.

Most people who get the coronavirus suffer mild to moderate symptoms and recover. But for some, mostly the elderly and those with underlying conditions, it can be fatal.

## OBITUARIES

### 'Lean On Me,' 'Lovely Day' singer Bill Withers dies at 81

Bill Withers, who wrote and sang a string of soulful songs in the 1970s that have stood the test of time, including "Lean on Me," "Lovely Day" and "Ain't No Sunshine," has died from heart complications, his family said in a statement to The Associated Press. He was 81. The three-time Grammy Award winner, who withdrew from making music in the mid-1980s, died on Monday in Los Angeles, the statement said. His death comes as the public has drawn inspiration from his music during the coronavirus pandemic, with health care workers, choirs, artists and more posting their own renditions on "Lean on Me" to help get through the difficult times. He is survived by his wife, Marcia, and children, Todd

and Kori. (AP)

### Actress-author Patricia Bosworth dies from coronavirus at 86

**LOS ANGELES** (AP)—Patricia Bosworth, an actress who once starred alongside Audrey Hepburn and later wrote biographies on several stars including Marlon Brando and Montgomery Clift, has died due to the coronavirus. She was 86. Bosworth's stepdaughter, Fia Hatsav, told The New York Times that pneumonia brought on by the virus was the cause of death. Bosworth died on Thursday in New York. Bosworth played a nun opposite of Hepburn in the 1959 classic "The Nun's Story." Along with penning bios for Brando and Clift, she also wrote biographies on actress Jane Fonda and famed photographer Diane Arbus, who photographed Bosworth in a Greyhound bus advertisement.

## Elton John-led concert to air anew on Fox; film academy aids workers

From finding ways to help others cope to sheltering in place to canceling events, here's a look at some of the ways the entertainment industry is reacting to the spread of the coronavirus, which most people recover from but can cause severe illness in the elderly and those with preexisting medical conditions.

### iHeart's living room concert

An Elton John-led, star-studded benefit concert that raised more than \$10 million to battle the coronavirus will be re-aired on Fox next week.

Billie Eilish, Mariah Carey and Alicia Keys will be shown performing from their homes on

"Fox Presents the iHeart Living Room Concert for America," which will air Monday. The money will go to Feeding America and First Responders Children's Foundation.

The hourlong event originally aired Sunday on Fox and iHeartMedia radio stations.

Other performers include Tim McGraw, H.E.R. and Sam Smith, who sang "How Do You Sleep" in a cappella form. Dave Grohl sang "My Hero" from his studio in Hawaii, Green Day's Billie Joe Armstrong strummed his guitar to "Boulevard of Broken Dreams," while Camila Cabello sang "My Oh My" from Miami with a guitar assist from beau Shawn Mendes.

Lady Gaga, Lizzo, Ellen DeGeneres and Ryan Seacrest paid tribute to those combating the spread of the virus.

### Film academy donates \$6M to help industry employees

The Academy of Motion Pictures Arts and Sciences is giving \$6 million to help film industry employees out of work due to the coronavirus pandemic.

The film academy, which puts on the annual Academy Awards, said Friday that it will donate \$2 million to the Actors Fund, which supports performers and behind-the-scenes workers; \$2 million to the Motion Picture & Television Fund, the long-running

nonprofit offering relief to members of the entertainment community in need; and \$2 million to the Academy Foundation, its own charitable arm.

"As we face a pandemic, it's incumbent upon us to help those in the motion picture community who are suffering," said David Rubin, academy president, said in a statement. "The shutting down of productions, businesses and theaters has had devastating consequences. By contributing financially to The Actors Fund, MPTF, and the Academy Foundation's wonderful grants program, we can help provide our extended family with desperately needed assistance."

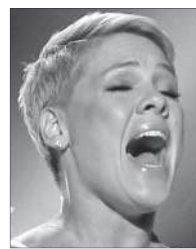
## Singer Pink says she had COVID-19, gives \$1M to relief funds

**LOS ANGELES** (AP)—The singer Pink had tested positive for COVID-19, she said Friday, also announcing that she is donating \$500,000 each to two emergency funds.

In a pair of tweets, she said she and her three-year-old son were displaying symptoms two weeks ago, and she tested positive after accessing tests through a primary care physician. Her family had already been sheltering

at home and continued to do so, she said. They were tested again "just a few days ago," and were negative.

The Grammy Award-winning artist behind eight studio albums and hits like "Get the Party Started," "What About Us," "Raise Your Glass" and "Just Give Me a Reason" called for



**Pink**

for free and widespread testing.

"It is an absolute travesty and failure of our government to not make testing more widely accessible," she wrote. "This illness is serious and real. People need to know that the illness affects the young and old, healthy and unhealthy, rich and poor, and we must make

testing free and more widely accessible to protect our children, our families, our friends and our communities."

She announced she's donating \$1 million across two coronavirus-related relief funds, with \$500,000 each going to the Temple University Hospital Fund in Philadelphia and the COVID-19 response fund run by the Mayor's Fund for Los Angeles.

## With parks closed, Disney starts furloughs in 2 weeks

**ORLANDO, Fla.** (AP)—Saying they don't know when they'll be able to re-open many of their businesses with the coronavirus spreading, Walt Disney Co. officials announced

they will start furloughing some workers in two weeks at its theme parks resorts in Florida and California.

The statement released late Thursday from The Walt Dis-

ney Co. said the first wave of furloughs will start April 19 and involve workers whose jobs aren't necessary at this time. Anyone who is furloughed will remain a Disney

employee, the company said. "Over the last few weeks, mandatory decrees from government officials have shut down a majority of our businesses," the statement said.

## Friendship with alcohol causes guilt and sorrow

**DEAR ABBY:** I have a friend who is an alcoholic. I met her when we first moved here five years ago. At that time, I wasn't aware of her drinking problem. Over the years it has become very apparent. I have yelled at her, shown deep concern for her, threatened rehab, begged her to get help, etc.

She calls me late in the evening rambling on about ridiculous things, repeating the same stories over and over, crying, claiming she's having panic attacks and all sorts of other health ailments that are most likely caused by her drinking. I am at my wits' end with her. She's a good person and has a good heart, but I know I can't save her because she's already stated she will never stop drinking.

How do I manage to keep my own sanity? I sometimes feel like I enable her by not calling her out on all her excuses for her problems when I know well they're all because of the drinking.

ENABLER IN MINNESOTA

**DEAR ENABLER:** I have two suggestions for you, and I hope you will avail yourself of both. The first is to go online to [al-anon.org](http://al-anon.org) to find the nearest location for meetings (you will find they are all over) and attend some. Al-Anon is a sister organization of Alcoholics Anonymous, and it was founded to help and support the friends and family

members of people who have an alcohol problem. It will help you to understand that YOU cannot help your friend. Only SHE can do that by mustering up the resolve to quit drinking. Many alcoholics do this only after they finally realize the consequences their addiction has cost them. In this case, the price may be her friendship with you.

The second is to tell your friend—while she is sober—that she cannot continue calling you when she has been drinking, and that if she does, you will hang up. Then do it.

**DEAR ABBY:** My 53-year-old brother had an affair eight years ago. He and his wife have four children. When he told his wife about it, they started sleeping in separate bedrooms. She stays with him for the kids' sake and for financial reasons.

The other woman, "Rachael," recently contacted him saying she has cancer and has no family who want to take care of her. He put her up in his cabin in the mountains and hasn't told his wife. He asked what I thought, and honestly, I feel that although I am sad for Rachael, my brother should put his wife before his concern for this other woman. I'm angry with him for what he's doing to his wife. What should he do?

DISAGREEING IN THE SOUTH

**DEAR DISAGREEING:** I assume that when your

## DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN  
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at [www.DearAbby.com](http://www.DearAbby.com) or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.



brother confided what he has been doing, you gave him your thoughts on it. If you didn't, you should.

I find it telling that the person asking me what he should do is you and not him. Rather than try to run interference for him, recognize the ball is in his court, and he has to decide for himself what he should—or should not—do, because he is playing a very dangerous game.

For an excellent guide to becoming a better conversationalist and a more sociable person, order "How to Be Popular." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Popularity Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)



# Pastimes

## Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson



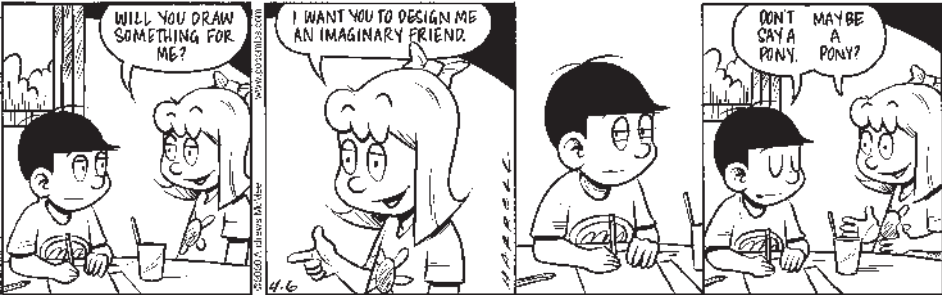
## Garfield®

By Jim Davis



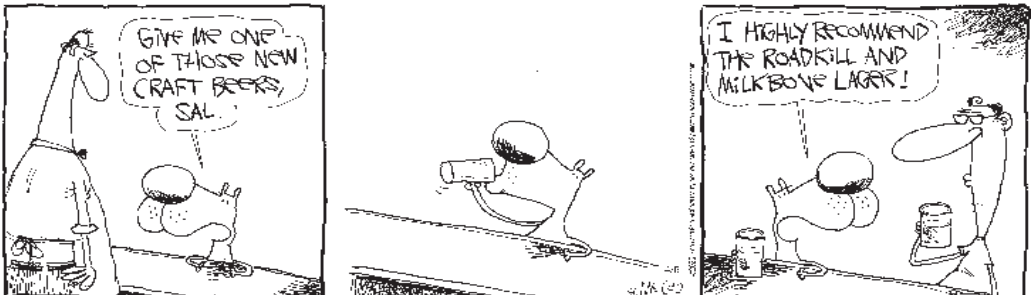
## Adam@home

By Bryan Basset



## The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



## CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

**ACROSS**

1 Enervate  
4 Humiliate  
9 Taxi  
12 Playwright  
13 Like some  
14 Mil.  
15 When  
17 Your  
18 Spell down  
19 Praised  
21 Talk  
24 Needing  
25 Tennis  
26 Fixed  
28 Garden  
31 Supplies  
33 Decks in  
35 Angelic  
36 Upper  
38 Pen tip  
40 Greek P

**DOWN**

1 "Chan-  
2 "Bow-  
3 Bit of  
4 Concurs  
5 "10"  
6 Coach  
7 Mattress  
8 Former  
9 Whiskey  
11 "Cheers"  
17 Recede  
20 "Oops!"  
21 Door-  
22 Exotic  
23 Standard  
27 Great  
29 K thru  
30 Any  
32 Beholds  
34 Heartfelt  
37 Ante-  
39 Container  
42 Raging  
44 Young  
45 Loony  
46 Hertz  
50 Vat  
51 Curator's  
52 King,  
53 "Communi-  
ty" actor

**Solution time: 26 mins.**

**Last Friday's Answer 04/06**

**STUMPED?**

**CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY:** Eliza Coupe, 39; Candace Cameron Bure, 44; Zach Braff, 45; Paul Rudd, 51.

**Happy Birthday:** Concentrate on completion, perfection and letting go of whatever isn't necessary anymore. Streamline your life to ensure that you make your way to a place that will satisfy you mentally, physically and emotionally. Recognize when you should delegate and when you should do something yourself; this will be the key to your success. Fine-tune your life, and make love a priority. Your numbers are 5, 12, 17, 22, 28, 36, 45.

**ARIES (March 21-April 19):** Go over details carefully, and redo anything that may not be working for you. Don't trust someone to take care of responsibilities that belong to you. Take a new approach to an old idea. A self-improvement project will boost confidence. \*\*\*

**TAURUS (April 20-May 20):** Do your best, and reap the rewards. There are plenty of opportunities to make money or advancements. Live up to your promises, and learn from your mistakes; good things will happen. An unusual opportunity will present itself. \*\*\*\*\*

**GEMINI (May 21-June 20):** A friend or relative will rely on you for assistance. Your input will make a difference in the way people judge you. Do what you say, and finish what you start. Someone will mislead you regarding an emotional matter. \*\*

**CANCER (June 21-July 22):** An adjustment you make at home or work will improve your day. Consider an offer or excellent idea someone provides. An emotional

matter can and should be dealt with quickly. Don't labor over something you cannot change. \*\*\*\*

**LEO (July 23-Aug. 22):** Keep an open mind regarding what others do, but don't get involved in something that isn't right for you. Focus on ways to raise your profile. Nurture partnerships that are good for your soul and encourage you to do better. \*\*\*

**VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22):** It will be difficult to control your emotions when dealing with partnerships or matters concerning youngsters or seniors. Patience will pave the way to solutions. A chance to get involved in an event or activity that interests you looks promising. \*\*\*

**LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22):** Rethink your strategy before you jump into something that will take the time you don't have to spare. Gauging what's essential and what isn't regarding partnerships and your personal life will be crucial. Demonstrate how you feel, and you'll get better results. \*\*\*

**SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21):** Someone may flatter you, but consider the motives behind his or her actions. A change made prematurely will leave you at a loss. Don't be afraid to take a different path if you don't like what someone offers. \*\*\*

**SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21):** Refuse to let anyone interfere in your personal affairs. Be suspicious of anyone who offers dirt on someone else. Gossip and rumors will lead to trouble. Concentrate on money matters, work and meaningful relationships. Romance is on the rise. \*\*\*\*

## EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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**CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19):** An offer will turn out better than anticipated. Look over contracts and legal agreements, and you'll discover a way to earn more and spend less. A lifestyle change will give you the boost you need physically, mentally and emotionally. \*\*\*\*\*



**AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18):** Reevaluate the way you live and the stress you endure, and you'll stay ahead. It may be time for a heart-to-heart talk with someone close to you who can help you make a transition that will make you happy. \*\*\*



**PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20):** Reach out to someone who has something you want or can use. Don't be afraid to ask for what you want and to counter with what you are willing to give in return. Set the groundwork for better relationships and prospects. \*\*\*

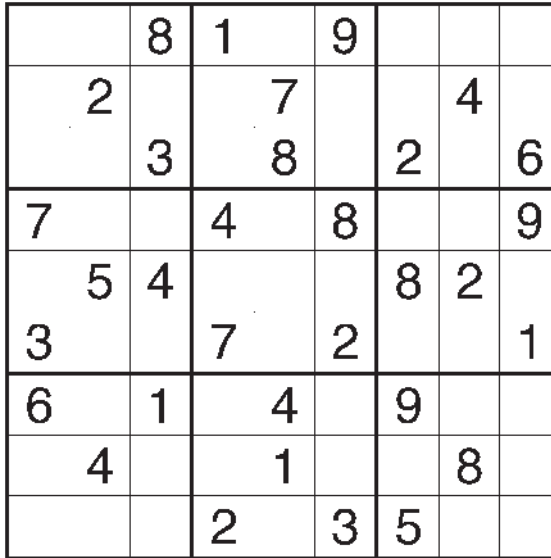
**Birthday Baby:** You are persistent, entertaining and smart. You are expressive and original.

Visit [Eugenialast.com](http://Eugenialast.com), or join Eugenia on Twitter/Facebook/LinkedIn. Copyright 2020 Andrews McMeel Syndication

## SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green



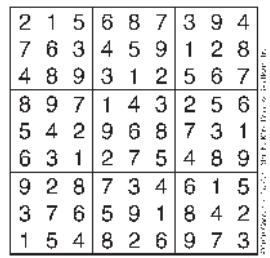
Difficulty Level ★

4/06

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Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Last Friday's Answer



## WONDERWORD

By DAVID OUELLET

**HOW TO PLAY:** All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

K STREET, WASHINGTON

Solution: 7 letters



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Agents, Akin, Beck, Bogg, Budgets, Canal, Capital, Cassidy, Circle, Comcast, Connections, Creek, Decisions, Gates, Groups, Holland, Insurance, Interests, Issues, Laws, Legislation, Lobbying, Mart, Member, Oils, Opinion, Policy, Politics, Pressure, Promote, Pull, Rein, Represent, Results, River, Rock, Street, Sway, Tavern, Tunnel, Voice, Vote, Washington, Water, Wiley

Last Friday's Answer: **Electrons**  
To purchase WONDERWORD books, visit [www.WonderWordBooks.com](http://www.WonderWordBooks.com), or call 1-800-642-6480.



# Kobe leads Hall; Tim, KG selected

**BRISTOL, Conn.**—Arguably the greatest Hall of Fame class in basketball history is now officially set.

In what was a foregone conclusion, the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame announced on Saturday that NBA luminaries Kobe Bryant, Tim Duncan and Kevin Garnett will headline the Class of 2020. They will be joined by fellow first-ballot entry Tamika Catchings of WNBA fame.

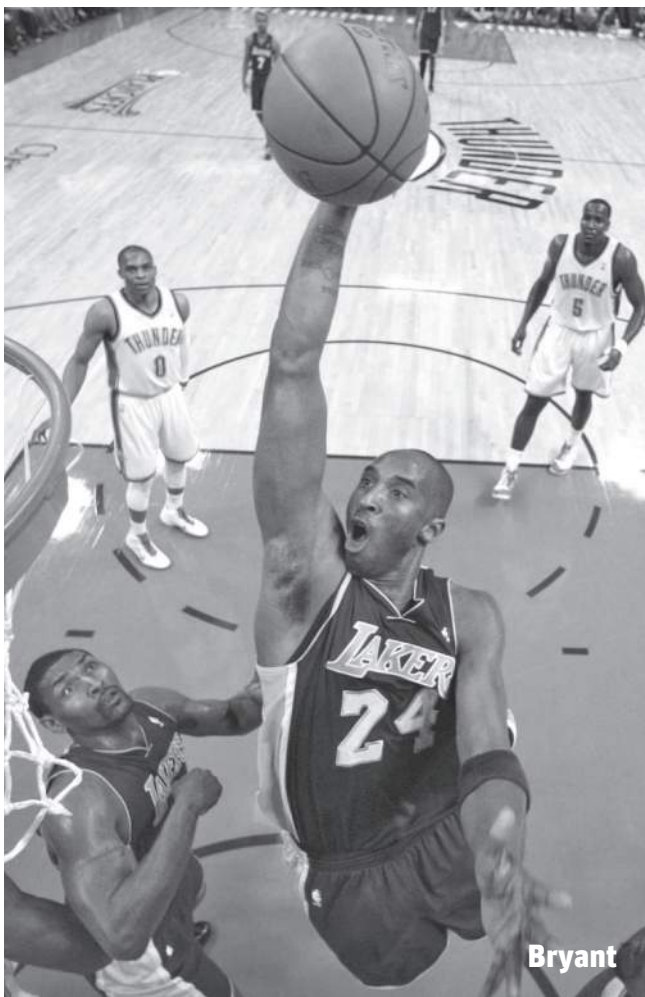
Also in this year's class: coaches Rudy Tomjanovich, Eddie Sutton, Kim Mulkey and Barbara Stevens, along with contributor Patrick Baumann, who was the secretary general of FIBA in 2002 before passing away in 2018.

Bryant, Duncan and Garnett combined for 48 All-Star appearances, 11 championships and four Most Valuable Player awards in 60 seasons, defining the NBA after Michael Jordan's retirement.

The Hall of Fame committee limited the 2020 class in the wake of Bryant's tragic passing in a helicopter accident this past January, ensuring a tribute to the Los Angeles Lakers legend and his peers in the NBA's pantheon will shape the induction ceremony scheduled for this summer.

Bryant played 20 seasons for the Lakers, winning five championships on a maniacal quest for greatness. He captured 2008 MVP honors and the Finals MVP award in both 2009 and 2010. An extraordinary scorer, Bryant's 18 All-Star bids are second only to Kareem Abdul-Jabbar's, and his 33,643 career points rank him fourth behind Abdul-Jabbar, Karl Malone and LeBron James.

"It's an incredible accomplishment and honor, and we're extremely proud of him," Vanessa Bryant told ESPN on Saturday. "Every accomplishment that he had as an athlete was a stepping stone to be here."

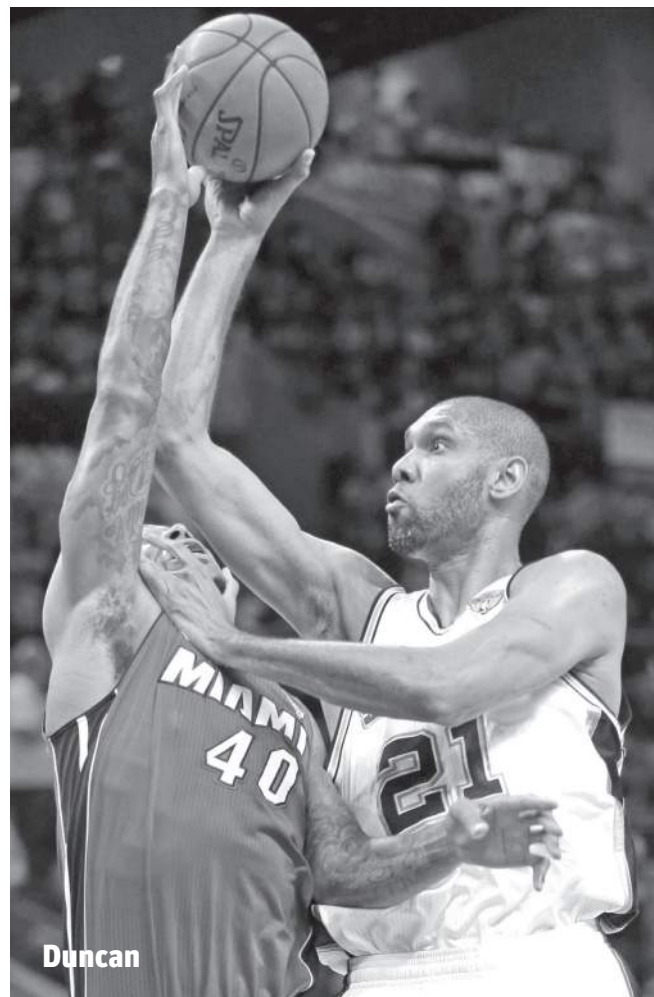


Bryant

The Bryants had three other daughters together besides Gianna. "Obviously we wish that he was here with us to celebrate," Vanessa said. "We're incredibly proud of him."

Lakers owner Jeanie Buss also paid tribute to Bryant on Saturday. "Kobe was not only a proven winner and a champion, he gave everything he had to the game of basketball," she said in a statement. "His fierce competitiveness, work ethic and drive were unmatched. Those qualities helped Kobe lead us to five titles—and have now brought him to the Hall of Fame, where he will be enshrined with the greatest to have ever played the game. No one deserves it more."

Meanwhile, Duncan also won five titles in his 19 seasons with the San Antonio Spurs, earning Finals MVP honors in 1999, 2003 and



Duncan

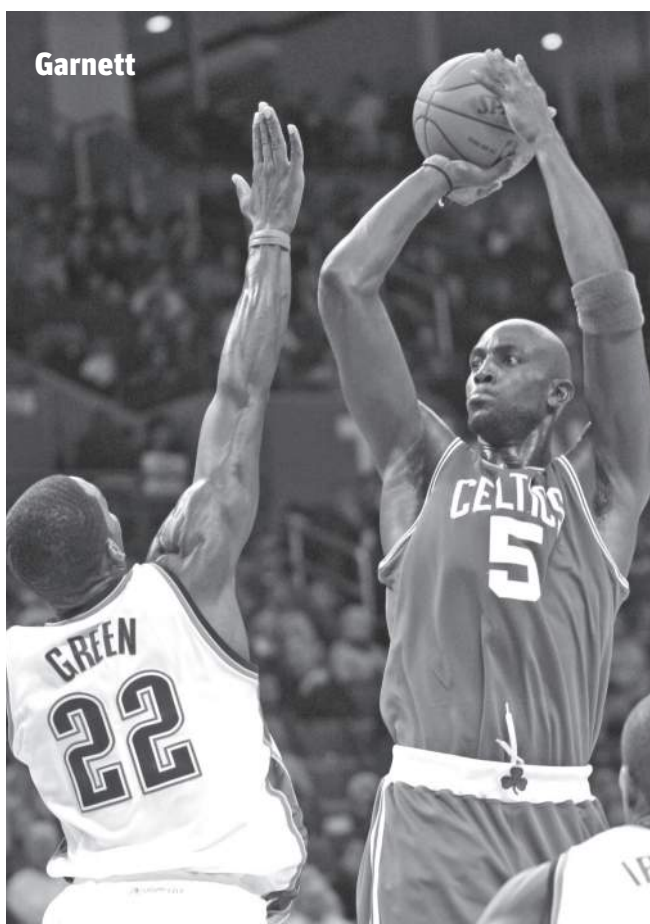
will fittingly be joined by Catchings, one of the greatest women's players in the game's history. A 1998 NCAA champion with the University of Tennessee and the WNBA's No. 1 overall pick in 2002, her remarkable list of accolades includes 12 All-WNBA selections, five Defensive Player of the Year awards, four Olympic gold medals, the 2011 MVP award and 2012 Finals MVP honors en route to her lone championship in 15 seasons with the Indiana Fever.

Tomjanovich played 11 seasons in the NBA, mostly with the Houston Rockets, but is best remembered for coaching the Rockets to NBA championships in 1994 and 1995. He coached Houston for more than a decade and coached the Lakers for one season in 2004-05.

Sutton began his college head coaching career with Creighton in 1969, before stints with Arkansas, Kentucky and Oklahoma State. He coached a final season with San Francisco in 2007-08, finishing with 806 career victories. Sutton was a two-time Associated Press Coach of the Year, earning the honor in 1978 with Arkansas and 1986 with Kentucky. He was inducted into the College Basketball Hall of Fame in 2011, despite serious NCAA violations at Kentucky that led to his resignation in 1989.

Mulkey has coached the Baylor women's basketball team since 2000, winning national championships in 2005, 2012 and 2019. She was also the Associated Press College Basketball Coach of the Year in 2012 and 2019. She was a standout guard for Louisiana Tech, winning the AIAW title in 1981 and the first NCAA women's championship in 1982.

Stevens is an NCAA Division II coaching legend who won a national title in 2014 with Bentley University, which she has been coaching since 1986. She has 1,038 career victories.



Garnett

2005. He was the league's MVP in 2002 and 2003. A silent assassin nicknamed "The Big Fundamental" by fellow legendary big man Shaquille O'Neal, Duncan oversaw the NBA's winningest franchise of the 21st century. His partnership with Tony Parker and Manu Ginobili resulted in the most playoff victories by any triumvirate in league history.

In his 21 seasons, Garnett garnered MVP honors with the Minnesota Timberwolves in 2004 and the Defensive Player of the Year award with the Boston Celtics in 2008, when he won his lone championship. A beloved teammate and feared opponent, he transformed both franchises in the process. A wonderful blend of length, skill, athleticism and intensity, he is the only player in NBA history to record 25,000 points, 10,000 rebounds, 5,000 assists, 1,500 steals and 1,500 blocks.

The NBA trio of players

## Silver talks to Trump, hopes NBA can lead way back



**NEW YORK**—While pessimism may be growing that it will ever happen, there is still a strong desire in the NBA league office to find a way to play and finish off the season, crowning a champion.

Which is essentially what NBA commissioner Adam Silver told President Donald Trump in a conference call Saturday, according to a report from Adrian Wojnarowski. The call included the heads of nearly every major sport in the United States, with the big takeaway being Trump want-

ing the NFL to start on time this fall, reports ESPN.

Silver said he'd love for the NBA to be the first back once it's safe to do so.

When the NBA comes back and whether it is to finish off this season or just start the next one remains up in the air, with the biggest factors in that decision beyond the league's control. It's the same with if it will be safe to have stadiums full of people to watch football games come August and September. As Dr. Anthony Fauci

puts it, the virus sets the timeline, not us.

The NBA is not making a decision now on what comes next and when, nor does it have to. Where the nation will be come June and July in terms of containing the virus, treatments, and more remain unknown. Silver doesn't have to make a decision yet, but he also doesn't have one to make—until we as a nation get the upper hand on the coronavirus, the shutdown of professional sports

will continue.

No matter how much anyone wants it to return.

Meanwhile, it was one of the strategy questions coming into the NBA 2K players tournament broadcast on ESPN Friday night: When would players use the big-gun teams? The rules of the competition had players designate eight teams they might play as, but they could only use each team once. Teams such as the Bucks and Lakers are high value, but use them early to advance and

it becomes hard to win it all.

Derrick Jones Jr. went to the big guns and played the Bucks in the first round against Kevin Durant, who picked the Clippers. Durant has complained in the past on Twitter that the transition defense in NBA 2K20 is terrible, and Jones showed exactly why on his way to an upset win.

Durant's Clippers could not stop Giannis Antetokounmpo in transition. Although to be fair, the actual NBA has that same problem.

Durant's other problem may simply have been he's old at age 31, born in 1988.

What may have been most interesting through the night was the side banter between the players. For example, when Phoenix Suns center Deandre Ayton said he's been lifting during the NBA's coronavirus-forced suspension, the Bull's Zach LaVine said he didn't need to get any bigger. Durant said it had been a while since he touched a ball and Jones said he was shooting onto his roof to keep his shooting touch as best he can.



# MLB may play in empty spring training ballparks



**N E W  
Y O R K**—As

Major League Baseball faces the potential of a significantly shortened or completely lost season due to the coronavirus pandemic, the league is considering every option that would allow the most possible games to be played.

Unfortunately, based on Ken Rosenthal's latest report for The Athletic, the league might be running out of solutions that are both safe and within logistical reason.

According to Rosenthal, MLB is now considering beginning the season exclusively in Arizona or Florida, where games would be played at spring training ballparks with no fans in the stands.

MLB is prioritizing public health as it examines all possibilities, sources say. The season, at least initially, could be played in Florida or more likely Arizona, where spring-training parks are more concentrated. But the logistics of quarantining 30 teams in one area would be extremely complex and potentially controversial, sources say, requiring local, state and federal government cooperation and resources that might be necessary to fight the COVID-19 pandemic.

MLB isn't the first major sports league to consider this approach in order to complete the 2020 season. Earlier this week, it was reported the



In this March 16, 2020 file photo, Houston Astros pitcher Dean Deetz is seen behind a fence as he throws on a practice field at the team's spring training facility in West Palm Beach, Fla. AP

NBA is considering finishing out its season in one central city, with Las Vegas being mentioned as the most likely location. That plan would include the entire postseason.

Arizona would make the most sense for MLB in terms of cutting down travel and get-

ting more games played in a shorter time frame. More than half the league has a facility and ballpark in or around the Phoenix area. It could work under different circumstances.

Simply put, these are not the right circumstances.

As Rosenthal notes, an en-

tire league converging on one city would seemingly put everyone directly involved with MLB and the community at large at greater risk.

To play under quarantine, the sport would need to protect the health not only of players and other club personnel, but

also umpires and those producing the television broadcasts, plus hotel workers, bus drivers and anyone else involved with the players and games.

"Your margin of error is so small," one baseball official said.

As an example, the official cited the possibility of a hotel worker going home, catching the virus and bringing it back into the baseball environment the next day. The effect might be similar to what occurs on a cruise ship. Infections would spread rapidly, and the sport again would need to shut down.

That's a pretty grim downside. Those concerns alone should be enough to squash this idea.

Keeping players from their families for weeks, if not months, amid a national health crisis is a tough strategy to get behind as well.

That doesn't even take into account the health care resources that would have to be available to provide testing for the virus or just look after players who might be injured. It wouldn't be a great look for MLB players in Arizona to be getting quick MRIs and other medical tests when other areas are struggling to provide urgent care for COVID-19 patients.

That's at least three big strikes against this plan already.

We don't blame MLB for spitballing ideas here. Perhaps

opening the season in Arizona or another central location will look like a more reasonable option in June or July. It's possible, but it's awfully difficult to imagine given the lens we're looking through right now.

## Serving suspension

Meanwhile, even if there's no baseball in 2020, both A.J. Hinch and Jeff Luhnow will be eligible to return to the majors in 2021. Both men—who were fired by the Houston Astros as a result of the sign-stealing scandal—can serve their suspensions even if a season doesn't take place, according to Buster Olney of ESPN.

How, exactly, does that work? It has to do with the way their suspensions are worded.

According to the wording from commissioner Rob Manfred's decision, both punishments end "following the completion of the 2020 World Series."

Sources told Olney that, because the suspensions are tied to the end of the 2020 postseason rather than a specific number of games, MLB will view Luhnow and Hinch as having served their discipline this year.

Had commissioner Rob Manfred suspended Hinch and Luhnow for 120 games—or any specific number of games—the two men may have had to wait until actual games were played. Instead, the two were suspended "following the completion of the 2020 World Series." If no season takes place, MLB will view 2020 as time served for Hinch and Luhnow.

Being eligible to return and actually getting a job are two different things. Given the outrage over the Astros' sign-stealing scandal, it's unclear whether teams will want to hire Hinch and Luhnow. Both men experienced plenty of success with the Astros, but it's tough to know how much of that success was due to the scandal. And even if teams believe both men are smart, the fallout from hiring either Hinch or Luhnow could be too big a risk. The amount of media coverage and fan outrage would make it tough, at least for a time, and any success those men achieve with their new organizations would be met with skepticism.

## Olympic delay adds workload, costs, and cash flow uncertainty

**GENEVA** (AP)—Postponing the Tokyo Olympics to 2021 will make the event more costly for all parties, the International Olympic Committee acknowledged on Thursday, although it offered few details on what the final bill might be.

Four directors of the Olympic body held a conference call three days after Tokyo's new dates were finalized, with the games pushed back to July 23-Aug. 8 next year because of the coronavirus pandemic.

While the new dates cleared up any uncertainty about the event's future, there are still plenty of question marks as the IOC begins to work with Tokyo organizers and governing bodies of 33 sports in a huge task to amend thousands of contracts. They include agreements for 41 venues, an Olympic village of 5,000 apartments, hotels, transport, plus the supply of goods and services.

"All of this now has to be re-secured for one year later," said Christophe Dubi,

the IOC's Olympic Games executive director. "There will be costs for (Tokyo local organizers) and the IOC and Olympic family side."

The estimations for how much it will cost to postpone the games have started at \$2 billion and gone much higher. Japanese taxpayers are expected to meet most of it, adding to their share of an official budget of \$12.6 billion.

The IOC was contributing \$1.3 billion to Tokyo's original operating budget.

Asked if the Switzerland-based Olympic body would meet some of the extra costs from its own insurance policy or billion-dollar reserve fund, the official line Thursday was that it's too early to say.

It was also unclear how the payments from broadcasters will be structured.

"We're only just getting into all of this," said Timo Lumme, the managing director of television and marketing.

Broadcasters including

NBC contributed 73% of the IOC's \$5.7 billion income from the previous four-year cycle up to the 2016 Rio de Janeiro Olympics. Of that, \$540 went to the governing bodies of the 28 core Summer Games sports.

That figure is expected to go up for Tokyo, but it's still unclear when the governing bodies will get IOC payments from their share of those revenues.

The IOC has not committed to paying 25% of that money in advance in 2020 in 2020 to ease the governing bodies' cash flow. Many face extra costs for Tokyo while also having to cancel revenue-earning world championships and other international events.

"They'll get to 2021, but in what condition?" said Francesco Ricci Bitti, head of the group of Summer Games sports known as ASOIF, this week. He told The Associated Press that "15 to 20 are very dependent on Olympics funding."

One Tokyo Olympics de-





# Open competition between Trubisky, Foles

**ILLINOIS**  
(AP)—The Chicago Bears declared the quarterback competition between Mitchell Trubisky and newcomer Nick Foles an open one.

General manager Ryan Pace made that clear during a conference call, saying both players are “embracing” the battle that will play out whenever offseason workouts begin.

Coach Matt Nagy stressed that Trubisky will be the first quarterback on the field whenever practices begin. But he planned to give Trubisky and Foles equal time with the starters. He also said both will play in the preseason as part of the evaluation.

“It’s going to be equal and we as coaches need to make sure we do the right thing in regard to equal reps, and make sure they’re playing with similar or the same players on offense and going against the same players on defense,” Nagy said. “There will be some juggling that we’ll have to do. It might be a little different at times on how we do it and how we get to it. But I can promise you this: It’s going to be completely fair, it’s going to be extremely competitive in a good way. It’s going to be a healthy competitiveness.”

Pace largely staked his reputation to Trubisky when he traded up a spot with San Francisco to draft him with the No. 2 overall pick in 2017. And the results have been mixed.



Mitchell Trubisky, left, and Nick Foles will have an open competition for the Chicago Bears.

Trubisky was selected to replace Jared Goff in the Pro Bowl after his second season. But instead of taking another big step forward last year, he struggled as the Bears stumbled to an 8-8 record and missed the playoffs after winning the NFC North at 12-4 in 2018.

Pace said after the season the Bears remained committed to Trubisky as their starter, though they weren’t ruling out bringing in a veteran to push

him. They did just that when they acquired Foles from Jacksonville last month.

On Friday, the Bears indicated he’s more than an insurance policy if Trubisky struggles or gets injured.

“Mitch is a competitor,” Pace said. “I think when you’re built that way, competition brings out the best in you. Matt and I had that discussion with him, and you could feel that in him right away—kind of that, ‘OK, hey, let’s go,



AP

what’s best for the team and this is gonna bring out the best in all of us.’ I think the key word is just that he embraced the competition.”

Pace wouldn’t answer if the Bears will pick up Trubisky’s fifth-year option for the 2021 season. The deadline is in May, though it would be a surprise if they exercised it considering he is now in a fight for the starting job.

Foles said he called Trubisky because he thought it was important to introduce himself. He wanted to “get started on the right foot.”

“Trust me, I get the situation,” Foles said. “Mitch has been there for a couple years,

Mitch has been the quarterback, and I’m respectful to that situation.”

Foles took 2018 Super Bowl MVP honors with Philadelphia. He led the Eagles past Chicago in the wild-card game at Soldier Field the next year. He’s familiar with the Bears’ system and worked with Nagy under Andy Reid when they were with the Eagles and Kansas City.

Foles also has something to prove, coming off an injury-riddled season in Jacksonville in which he lost his starting job to rookie Gardner Minshew. To make the trade to Chicago happen, he said he had to agree to a “crazy restructure” of the four-year, \$88 million contract

he signed just over a year ago.

“The quarterback competition becomes such a big thing in the NFL. Which it is,” Foles said. “The quarterback is an important position. But ultimately we have to do what’s best for the Chicago Bears.”

Meanwhile, the Tampa Bay Buccaneers have re-signed free agent backup quarterback Blaine Gabbert to a one-year contract.

The 10th-year veteran spent all of last season on injured reserve after hurting his shoulder during the preseason.

Gabbert signed with the Bucs last year after spending the first eight seasons of his career with the Jacksonville Jaguars, San Francisco 49ers, Tennessee Titans and Arizona Cardinals, where he played for coach Bruce Arians in 2017.

He entered the NFL as the 10th overall pick of the 2011 draft and has started 48 of 56 games he’s played, throwing for 9,036 yards, 48 touchdowns and 47 interceptions.

In San Francisco, wide receiver Travis Benjamin and offensive lineman Tom Compton have signed one-year deals with the NFC champion 49ers.

Benjamin is a ninth-year pro who has caught 19 touchdown passes and returned four punts for scores in his eight NFL seasons in Cleveland (2012-15) and with the Chargers (2016-19). His 2019 season was cut short by a thigh injury.

Also a ninth-year pro, Compton is joining his sixth team in the last six seasons. After playing for Washington from 2012-15, Compton played in Atlanta (2016), Chicago (2017), Minnesota (2018) and for the Jets last year.

## KIM

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and then outclassed Chung in the finals, 6-1, 6-2.

Chung, following her back-to-back runner-up finishes in the singles play, is at second place in the division rankings after logging 1,650 points. She got a pair of 750 points in the singles events and 150 in the doubles (third place with Hong) from the TanHoldings competition.

Sikkel is at third place with her 1,350 after earning 600 points (singles) and 250 (doubles) in the TanHoldings event and 500 (third place singles) in the Coconut Classic.

Joining Kim, Serin Chung, and Sikkel in the rankings are Hong (950), Hoo Wang (800), Yebin Shin (400), Seo Hee Lee (250), and Irin Chung (200).

The rankings may still change depending on the fate of the last two tournaments of the season—Bridge Capital Classic and CNMI Junior Championships. The Bridge Capital event started last month, but the junior competition has been suspended due to the COVID-19 pandemic, while the



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Serin Chung hits back to Helen Kim during their girls U14 singles game in the 2020 Coconut Tennis Classic last February at the American Memorial Park tennis courts.

CNMI Junior Championships has been rescheduled to May 29 to 31 and June 5 to 7.

The rankings are used to select the CNMI players who

will compete in the 2020 North Pacific Regional Championships, which has also been pushed back from June to July in Guam due to the pandemic.

## QUARANTINE

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mately impacts adherence. There are numerous ways to spice it up, but truthfully, over a period of time, it’s not going to be as enjoyable. This is why I pointed out in the meantime it’s worthwhile to shift most of your attention

toward other disciplines.

**Q: These past few weeks have been a roller coaster. Since the news broke out about the first confirmed cases, my diet has been out of whack. Some days are good and some days are really bad. I feel guilty.**

**A:** Let’s take a few steps back and be pragmatic. Don’t

feel guilty. It’s okay because right now is not exactly the best time to be on a diet. However, you should still be eating sensibly. It doesn’t make any sense for you to overindulge when there’s clearly a drop in your activity level. Believe me, you don’t want to find yourself in a deeper hole than you began with.

## NMI

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momentum after drawing support from more than 50 Asian players and officials and has engaged with millions of fans across the globe the past week. Among the Asian stars backing the campaign by appearing in videos are FIFA Female Player of the Century Sun Wen of China, India’s all-time leading scorer Sunil Chhetri, Indonesia and Persija Jakarta legend Bambang Pamungkas, and Suwon Samsung Bluewings star Hong Chul of South Korea.

Meanwhile, NMIFA gener-

al secretary Ross Zapanta said that besides supporting the #BreakTheChain campaign, they are also encouraging their players and members to stay in shape.

“NMIFA will keep doing its best to help prevent the spread of the virus and at the same time provide everyone with ways how to maintain their physical fitness. There is more motivation if people can do something as a group even at the confines of their homes. With the internet and different social media platforms, we can still be connected so let us take advantage of the technol-

ogy,” Zapanta said.

NMIFA, through its pool of coaches and other resource persons, have been sending players workout videos so they could still train. Players are even encouraged to post their own videos when training (via Facebook group I am Fit Global Challenge) so they could also inspire others and share ideas.

“We would like to thank coach Mita for continuously working and thinking of ways how to encourage soccer players as well as the community to be active and healthy during this challenging time,” Zapanta said.





Kobe leads  
Hall; Tim, KG  
selected

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# Saipan Tribune Sports

MLB may  
play in empty  
spring training  
ballparks

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20 MONDAY, APRIL 6, 2020

SAIPAN TRIBUNE

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO  
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REPORTER

Northern Mariana Islands Football Association players and officials are onboard with Asian Football Confederation's #BreakTheChain initiative to raise awareness and promote solidarity in the fight against the spread of the COVID-19 pandemic.

NMIFA, led by its technical director and CNMI Men's National Team coach Michiteru Mita, launched a video that discusses safety measures, including proper hygiene practices to prevent the spread of the virus. The video, with hashtags #MarianasStrong #StayHomeSaveLives #BreakTheChain #FlattenTheCurve #FootballCares, has been making its rounds in social media since last Friday.

## NMI joins AFC's #BreakTheChain campaign



ASIAN FOOTBALL CONFEDERATION

A clip from the Asian Football Confederation's video promotes the #BreakTheChain campaign to fight against the spread of the COVID-19 pandemic.

It features guidelines from Mita, national team players Taka Borja, Thaipi Austria, Sunjoon Tenorio, Jireh Yobech, and Enrico del Rosario, and assistant coach Jerh Angeles.

Mita, in the opening part of the video, mentioned the five key points in the prevention

of the virus' spread: hands, elbows, face, distance, and feel.

"It always starts with washing your hands, frequently using soap or alcohol-based solution," said Borja in one of the video clips.

Austria was up next and his suggestions include cover-



NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION

A clip from the closing part of the Northern Mariana Islands Football Association's video on #BreakTheChain campaign encourages the Marianas to stay strong in the fight against the virus' spread.

ing the mouth and nose using the elbow when sneezing or coughing and utilizing tissue papers and quickly and properly disposing them.

Tenorio, who is back on island after an eventful rookie

season in the NCAA, appeared in the video wearing a mask and encouraged everyone to refrain from touching their face, mouth, eyes, and nose.

Though government and health officials strongly ad-

vised people to stay home, Yobech acknowledged that there will be times they need to go out. When doing so, Yobech reminded people to observe distance (6 feet apart) when having interaction.

For people not feeling well, Del Rosario encouraged them to stay home and follow instructions from health authorities.

In closing, Angeles rallies the community to work together in our fight against the spread of COVID-10.

The NMIFA video is one of the many promotional campaigns launched by members of the AFC, which started the initiative late last month. In less than two days, #BreakTheChain has gained

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# Kim takes top spot

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO  
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REPORTER

Saipan International School's Helen Kim sits atop the girls U14 division in the CNMI Junior Tennis Rankings.



Kim got off to a good start, winning 1,250 points in the season-opening TanHoldings Tennis Classic in November last year and then added the 1,000 points she earned from the 2020 Coconut Tennis Classic last February to lead seven players in the age group rankings.

The 14-year-old player collected 1,000 points for clinching the singles championship in the TanHoldings tournament. She was undefeated in the round-robin competition, prevailing against Savita Sikkell, 6-2, 6-0; Sei Yul Hong, 6-0, 6-0; and Serin Chung, 7-5, 7-5. In the doubles, Kim partnered with Sikkell and they defeated Chung and Hong, 6-0, 6-3, to gain an additional 250 points each in the



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Helen Kim returns to Serin Chung during their girls U14 singles game in the 2020 Coconut Tennis Classic last February at the American Memorial Park tennis courts.

first tournament of the 2019-2020 season.

For her second competition, Kim was seeded first in the

seven-player field in the Coconut Classic and did not drop a single set en route to another first place finish and 1,000

ranking points. She first swept Sikkell in the semis, 6-01, 6-1,

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## Quarantine fitness and eating intuitively

Ask DRE:

By DRE DELOS SANTOS  
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Dre Delos Santos writes about fitness and nutrition for Saipan Tribune and TAGA Sports. He is a personal trainer at Gold's Gym. He is featured on fitness sites such as Weight Watchers, T-Nation, and STACK.



For those of you who take their training and fitness seriously, I'm certain you're all going through withdrawals. Am I right? Well, I have a confession to make. It's hard for me to get in a groove working out at home too. The rug was pulled out from under our feet just like that. And with the COVID-19 pandemic taking everyone hostage, it's fair to say things have been rather bleak.

All things considered, though, this is for the collective good. With the level of compliance and empathy we've been showcasing, I'm confident we'll get through this sooner rather than later.

**Q: I'm not feeling the whole working out at home. With you asserting it's not as efficient, I'd**

**rather do something else. Can I just go for walks instead? Maintaining a high step count counts for something right?**

**A:** Do whatever it is you want to do. In regards to what I brought up last week, at-home workouts can in fact be effective. We all have to make the best of this harrowing situation, and appreciate that staying active with whatever jibes well with you is a thousand times better than not doing anything at all. But the reason why I said they're not as efficient as training in a fully equipped gym is because there's only so much you can do before you start to run into some limitations, and that ulti-

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